



ARAB TIMES



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Ministers to stand trial for crimes against security

AN Amiri Decree places ministers on trial in the eventuality they are cited for crimes against state security, failing to honour their public responsibilities, misappropriating their offices, to circumvent judicial procedures, as well as bringing dispute to the elections of members of the National Assembly or the National Council.

Ministers, if indicted, will be tried by the Supreme Judicial Council on the recommendation of the relevant Amiri Decree.

The text of the decree, published yesterday in the official gazette (Kuwait Al Youm) stipulates that if a minister is indicted, he is liable to lose his ministerial position, including incurring all judicial penalties.

The trial to be held by a higher court will comprise five members selected by the Supreme Judicial Council from among the Kuwaiti chancellors, including two other stand-by members who will be selected in the eventuality if the original members fail to appear.

Within the framework of Article 18, the decree stipulates that the trial will be conducted in camera and indictments will be ratified when four members vote in favour. This sentence will be irrevocable — with the provision that such sentence would not be enforced due to the accused being tried in absentia.

Additionally, it will also be possible to request for a reconsideration of the indictment sentence based on a request by the public prosecutor, the defendant or his heirs, provided new evidence or documents are submitted which were not introduced at the first hearing.

Under Article 15, the minister will be deprived from parliamentary immunity and suspended from his official duties to the eventuality he is referred to judicial investigation.

Under Article 7, the decree stipulates that the Supreme Judicial Council will be selected

within a maximum period of three days, including an ad-hoc questioning panel comprising three chancellors selected from the chancellors of the courts of cassation and appeal.

According to Article 8, the panel will conduct all its deliberations in secrecy and will requisition evidence from all government agencies. The panel will complete its findings and submit their report to the Supreme Judicial Council which will transmit the same

within two months from the date of the committee's formation to HH the Amir.

Under Article 9, the council will be required to select the members of the high court within a maximum period of two days from the date on which the indictment decision was referred to it.

Under Article 10, the chairman of the court will set a date to look into the legal implications of the case which should not exceed thirty days from the date of the decree.

Massive Kashmir demo

India vows to fight for every inch of land

SRINAGAR, June 17. (Agencies): Thousands of Kashmiris staged anti-India demonstrations in strife-torn Srinagar during a 12-hour relaxation in a curfew today, as police reported separatist violence left six more people dead and six wounded.

No incidents were reported despite the presence of armed paramilitary units in the state capital of 600,000.

In Srinagar's Nawa Kadal area, about 2,000 people gathered at the main market to demand that all paramilitary forces be withdrawn from the city.

'Berlin' almost 'Bonn'

EAST BERLIN, June 17. (AP): East Germany's Parliament postponed a decision on unification with West Germany today after dramatically flirting with the idea of immediately dissolving the nation.

The country's first freely elected Parliament decided to put off a vote on unification by a vast majority in a show of hands, heading off a move by a group of lawmakers to secure a final decision on the historic question.

"The parliament would like to decide, resolve to join the German Democratic Republic ... to the Federal Republic of Germany on this very day," lawmaker Hans-Guenther Schwarz of the German Social Union told the chamber.

View from Hawaii

Constitution amendable

By Diana Abou Halid

KUWAIT'S constitution is not the Holy Quran, and some of its articles need to be changed, said Tukheim Al Tukheim, National Council member representing Hawalli.

"The constitution is a set of values and concepts that aim at safeguarding the interests of the country and its people. France has changed its constitution a number of times and England doesn't even have one," explained Tukheim.

But he added that any change to the constitution can only take place through the National Assembly. "The

National Council will not discuss or demand any changes to the country's constitution," he asserted.

Tukheim believes that the National Council is a big diwania where the Kuwaiti people can discuss their problems as they have always done throughout their history. "Our grandfathers didn't have national assemblies."

The council member also believes that Kuwait is a small country that cannot take any decisions in their countries of origin. "The country's present political system is the best-suited for the Kuwait of today as well as the Kuwait of tomorrow. (Continued on Page 11)

NEWS BRIEFS

Hirawi due in Kuwait: Lebanese President Elias Hirawi will pay an official visit to Kuwait next Saturday, it was announced yesterday.

Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad welcomed the visit of the Lebanese president, hoping for Lebanon peace and stability after the 16 years of civil war. (Kuwait)

Oman, Bulgaria establish ties: The Gulf Sultanate of Oman and Bulgaria have decided to establish diplomatic relations immediately and exchange ambassadors, the official Omani news agency said. (Reuters)

Manila rebels kill 7: Seven people were killed in Philippines when communist guerrillas ambushed a jeep carrying government troops in a remote village on Negros island, the military said.

Queen seeks jobs: Britain's Queen Elizabeth has asked Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to find formal jobs for some of her royal family, the Sunday Express newspaper says. (Reuters)

(Details Page 5)

Rolls Royce for goal

ABU DHABI, June 17. (Reuters): The United Arab Emirates player who scored his team's only goal in a 5-1 defeat by West Germany in the World Cup yesterday will get a Rolls Royce car.

UAE newspaper quoted forward Khalid Ismail as saying he had been promised the car by local auto dealer Khalid Al Habtoor.

Ismail became national hero for scoring the goal against one of the strongest teams in the world.



...Take you there

It was Madonna's show and Boy George tagged along for the ride. Their off-screen romance has apparently cooled. Reportedly Madonna and Boy George have gone their separate ways after co-starring in the new film 'Dick Tracy', and rumours claim Madonna waved goodbye first.

Details Page 15

Conspiracy verdict due as Amnesty says thanks

THE State Security Court will issue its verdict against four Kuwaitis accused of conspiring against the regime.

The four defendants are: Sayed Mohammad Bader Sayed Abbas Al Mousawi alias Al Malmi, Faisal Abdul Hadi Al Malmood, Waled Majed Sayed Reda Al Mazzeh and Abdul Hamed Abdur Karim Al Saffar.

The trial commenced on May 12 of this year with an open session. Subsequent sessions were deliberated behind closed doors.

Meanwhile, Amnesty International has thanked the Kuwaiti government for helping it investigate alleged human rights abuses, officials reported on Sunday.

A delegation from the London-based human rights group visited Kuwait last month and discussed the case of Al Mousawi, who they said was arrested in September and held without trial for months.

Amnesty representatives were allowed to attend the first two hearings of the otherwise closed trial.

Ex-ministers among arrested in Iran

TEHRAN, June 17. (UPI): Four former cabinet ministers were among nine people arrested in Tehran last week for alleged activities against the Islamic republic, political sources said today.

The four former ministers, all members of the Association for the Defence of Freedom, included Hossein Bani-Asadi, a deputy premier in the cabinet of former Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan, and Hashem Sabaghian, Bazargan's interior minister.

The other two were Reza Sadr, former commerce minister, and Ezzatollah Sahabi, minister of state and chief of the plan and budget organization in Bazargan's government.

Sharon, Eitan join war panel

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, June 17. (AP): Israel's right-wing cabinet today gave former generals Ariel Sharon and Rafael Eitan their biggest say in military policy since both were reprimanded for their actions in the 1982 Sabra and Chatila massacre.

At its first meeting, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's cabinet named former defence minister Sharon and Eitan, chief of staff during the Lebanon invasion, to the 11-man ministerial defence committee.

Both Sharon and Eitan were blamed by an Israeli inquiry for not anticipating that Israel's Christian militia allies would massacre hundreds of Palestinians if they were allowed to enter Beirut's Sabra and Chatila refugee camps in 1982.

Sharon, a leader in Shamir's right-wing Likud bloc, was also named chairman of a cabinet committee overseeing the immigration of thousands of Soviet Jews to Israel. Sharon is a champion of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

News last week that he would lead the immigration drive raised fears that he would try to move Soviet Jews to the occupied areas, worsening already tense ties with the United States. US policy considers the Jewish settlements obstacles to peace.

Israeli officials insisted anew, meanwhile, that the new cabinet would work for peace with Palestinians and for a smoother relationship with the United States.

"This government is interested in the peace process no less than the preceding government," said Police Minister Roni Milo, a Likud member and close Shamir confidant.

(Continued on Page 2)



Bombay paralysed

A man rides his scooter through a flooded street after heavy monsoon rains which paralysed life in Bombay. (Reuters wirephoto)



Biggest water slide

A young Japanese girl is all screams as she charges down the world's biggest water slide on an air-filled slide with her boyfriend at Tokyo's Toshimaen amusement park. (Reuters wirephoto)

Lanka truce breaks

COLOMBO, June 17. (Reuters): Tamil separatist guerrillas and government troops clashed in northeast Sri Lanka today, breaking a fragile day-old ceasefire, security sources said.

Two soldiers and a civilian were killed in fighting that broke out after the ceasefire went into effect at 6 pm (1230 GMT) yesterday, following five days of fighting that killed more than 400 people.

The sources said Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam rebels fired at several army camps in Batticaloa and Trincomalee districts. These attacks were reported without casualties.

They said a soldier was killed at Mutur, east of Trincomalee, and another died at Vavuniya in the north. Both incidents occurred after the ceasefire went into effect.

The sources said a helicopter was damaged in rebel fire at Mankulam in the north.

Batticaloa residents said a university lecturer was killed when air force helicopters strafed rebel positions near the town.

Rebels also blew up a bridge in the district last night preventing army reinforcements from reaching the area.

(Continued on Page 2)

Licence issued in Gulf valid in UAE

DUBAI, June 17. (Kuwait): The general commander of Dubai police, Brigadier Khalid Dabhi has announced that any driving licence issued by any GCC state would be valid in the UAE.

He elaborated that according to the latest agreement among the GCC traffic directors, the police of Dubai has decided to issue a UAE licence for any driver with a valid driving licence issued by the GCC states regardless of his nationality and without additional tests.

Nidal faction falls

Rashidiyah cleared

TYRE, June 17. (Reuters): Palestinian fighters loyal to Abu Nidal, described by the United States as the world's most wanted terrorist, today

Three people killed in the overnight clashes were Abu Nidal loyalists, they said. Twelve wounded fighters, four of them critically ill, were from both sides.

The sources said a breakaway faction trying to topple Abu Nidal from leadership of the Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC) had driven FRC fighters out of the Palestinian refugee camp of Rashidiyah.

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Case of dancing bear raises questions

A growing animal rights and environmental awareness in India

NEW DELHI, June 17. (UPI): Nasser Khan, a 70-year-old animal trainer, squatted beside his mudbrick home and bitterly recalled the day environmental authorities confiscated Munna the dancing bear.

Khan was about to begin a sidewalk show in front of a movie theater and Munna was ready to entertain — playing the guitar, smoking cigarettes and disco dancing. Then the authorities showed up, accused Khan of mistreating the bear and took Munna to the zoo.

"Without giving me any notice, they snatched my bear," Khan said. "I asked them: 'Don't take away my bear. This is my livelihood. This is my family's source of income. My whole family depends on this bear.'

Khan, a slender man with a lined face and a gray handbar moustache, ran afoul of a growing animal rights and environmental awareness in India whose

leading proponent is Maneka Gandhi, the minister of state for the environment.

Maneka is the renegade daughter-in-law and sister-in-law, respectively, of former Prime Ministers Indira and Rajiv Gandhi. Estranged from the family and its traditional power base in the Congress (I) Party, she bolted and accepted a job with the new National Front Government.

Since being named to the cabinet-level post last fall, Maneka has been a tireless advocate for the environment, calling for protection of wildlife and pressing for economic growth that will preserve the nation's natural resources.

She has paid special attention to the treatment of animals, pushing for improved care of wildlife at the New Delhi zoo and urging the humane society to remain open 24 hours a day because of the number of animals

injured by cars at night.

During a recent visit to an animal shelter run by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty To Animals, she stopped to look at a cow that had been hit by a car while wandering down a busy city street — a common sight in the capital.

The Times of India, which reported on the visit, said one of the officials noticed Maneka looking at the cow and remarked, "too many stray animals on the road."

"No, no," she replied. "Too much traffic."

Such remarks, while perhaps intended to force people to think differently about the environment, have earned Maneka a reputation for being cold and indifferent to the needs of her countrymen, who suffer from widespread poverty and unemployment.

And people like Nasser Khan, who lives in a slum of ramshackle

huts crisscrossed by open sewers, wonder why an environmental crusade has to include a pet bear that provides an income for a large family.

"We don't know why they took Munna. We don't know if they are planning to save wildlife. We can't tell you anything about that," Khansaid. "For us this is a question of bread and butter. This has been our business for generations. We don't have anything else but our bear."

But for officials who deal with the nation's wildlife, the issues are clear. Munna is a sloth bear, an endangered species protected by law. Most likely, they say, he was illegally taken from the wild.

There are only about 500 sloth bears left in the wild in India, living in jungles and feeding on ants, roots and fruits. Fully grown, they can reach a height of about 5-1/2 feet (1.7 m) standing on their hind legs and can weigh

up to 400 pounds (180 kg).

The confiscation of Munna May 1 sparked a controversy in India, where thousands of snake charmers and other street artists scratch out a living by training animals, birds and reptiles to perform for tourists.

Many street artists with trained bears fled the city after Munna's arrest, while others with bears, monkeys, snakes and birds stayed behind and staged protests in front of Parliament. Khan filed a case in the country's high court seeking the bear's return.

But environmental authorities say the bear should not be returned because it has been mistreated. A zoo official said when Munna arrived, his claws had been cut and he had a cataract that left him blind in one eye.

"This poor fellow can't eat," added the official, who asked not to be identified.



An Ohio Army national guardsman looks into wreckage of a car for victims of Thursday's flash flooding in Shadyside, Ohio. (Reuter wirephoto)

RAF fugitives exposed

Fall of Iron Curtain leads to swoops

EAST BERLIN, June 17. (Reuter): No one knew it at the time, but a perfect cover for fugitive West German urban guerrillas was blown when the Iron Curtain dividing the two Germanys parted seven months ago.

Former commandos of the Red Army Faction (RAF) who vanished without a trace after guerrilla raids as long ago as 1975 are now being arrested in East Germany with the regularity of police swoops on known soccer hooligans.

Six suspected RAF fugitives were captured in the past 10 days as a result of blooming inter-German police co-operation as the two Ger-

The RAF, which originated in radical student circles, went on a rampage of killings, bombings, kidnappings and bank robberies aimed against "the military-industrial complex" and the political establishment in the 1970s.

Most of the group's hard core had been killed or jailed by the early 1980s, but the trail of some notorious suspects ran mysteriously cold and a new crop of guerrillas resumed attacks, although at a much reduced level.

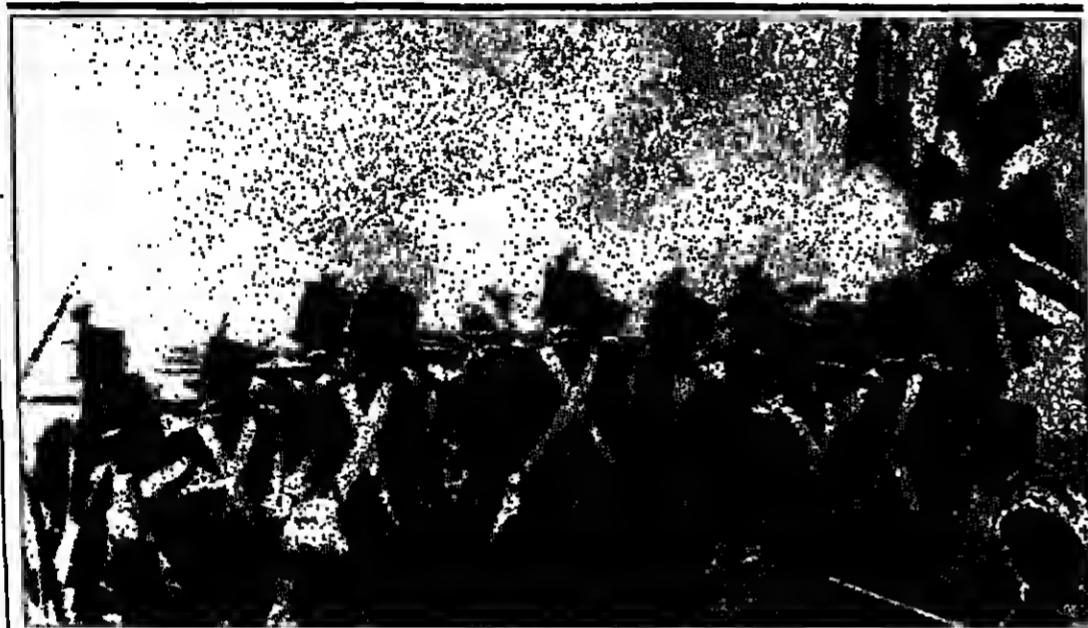
East Germany's Stalivists rulers were ready to help because, while disagreeing with the RAF's bloodthirsty tactics, they sympathised with its "anti-imperialist" crusade, according to West German security officials.

The RAF suspects just arrested entered East Germany as long ago as 1980. They were given false names, flats and even jobs by Stasi security police.

Once behind East Germany's fortified and sealed border with West Germany, they were safe from arrest because East Berlin refused any legal co-operation with Bonn.

Despite modern police technology, Germans are keeping alive one of the oldest police methods used to track down criminals — wanted posters.

The pictures of long-sought leftist terrorists have long been displayed prominently in West German public buildings, offering 50,000 marks (about \$30,000) for information leading to their arrests.



'Waterloo' restaged

2,300 march in 19th century uniforms

BRUSSELS, June 17. (AP): Some 2,300 people in 19th century military uniforms marched and rode busses over grassy knolls today to reenact Napoleon's last stand, the 1815 battle of Waterloo.

The battle was reconstructed on the site where Napoleon's "Grande Armee" of 70,000 suffered its final defeat by more than 100,000 British, Dutch, Belgian, German and Prussian troops allied under the Duke of Wellington.

At least 80,000 spectators lined the battlefield and sat on the "Butte du Lion," a 45-metre (148-foot) mound topped by a lion overlooking the farmlands near Waterloo, today a Brussels suburb, where Napoleon lost his empire 175 years ago on June 18, 1815.

Abolish KGB demand

MOSCOW, June 17. (AP): A self-described former KGB intelligence chief complained yesterday that the agency — still feared despite Soviet reforms — has too much power and should be disbanded.

Until now, no former KGB official in the Soviet Union has publicly proposed the dismantling of the agency. As a rule, KGB officials who break with the agency flee abroad or disappear.

"The KGB has too much political power, and this way will remain a threat to democracy because it may be manipulated," said Oleg D. Kalugin, who identified himself as a major general in charge of foreign counter-intelligence.

His claim could not be independently verified, although he displayed what he said were his KGB credentials. He said he was drummed out of the KGB this spring, but did not say why.

"I would abolish the KGB as such," said Kalugin, 55, who spoke with reporters after a speech to a political reform group called the Democratic Platform.

Napoleon was shipped to the South Atlantic island of St Helena where he died and was buried in 1821. Years later, his body was returned to Paris.

The Waterloo battlefield, an area of 2.5 by 5 kilometers (1.6 by 3 miles) was named a historic site in 1914, and so cannot be developed.

Among the spectators was the current — and eighth — Duke of Wellington, Lord Arthur Wellesley.

The spectators watched as soldiers with muskets and sabres clashed, and lit to the sound of canon fire, fifes, drums and bugles.

The festivities began yesterday with a light-and-sound show and fireworks at the mammoth Butte du Lion.

After his first defeat in 1814, Napoleon went to the Mediterranean island of Elba. He returned to mainland France on March 20, 1815, rounded up an army and set out to fight the allies in Belgium and regain his empire.

Unlike today's 90-minute event, the real battle took a full day. Napoleon almost won, but at the last minute Marshal Gebhard Blucher's Prussian troops arrived and turned the tide for the allies.

Estimates of the dead at Waterloo range from 12,000 to 50,000 plus 10,000 horses. The injured numbered 40,000, many of whom were robbed by local townsfolk and rifraff that followed armies around Europe in those days.

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Bangla strike against taxes

DHAKA, June 17. (AP): Tens of thousands of protesters took to the streets throughout Bangladesh today in an opposition-sponsored general strike opposing new taxes and calling for the resignation of President Hussain Muhammad Ershad.

Schools, businesses, buses and boats were shut down in at least 21 major cities, including the capital, Dhaka, a city of 6 million. Those few who did work had to walk to their jobs in a steady drizzle.

More than 50 people were detained nation-wide, but authorities said they were released after the strike ended at 2 pm (0600 GMT).

Witnesses said one group of demonstrators threw stones at a state-run bus and then clashed with police in Dhaka but there were no reports of injuries. Police were seen taking away victims.

Government offices and banks were open but the little business

in Dhaka, thousands of marchers shouted "Down with Ershad" and "Tear up the budget" as riot police patrolled nearby.

Sheikh Hasina, leader of an alliance of eight parties that called the strike, said the action was a success.

"Ershad has no right to stay in power. People have rejected the fresh taxes proposed by his government," she said.

The strike focused on the country's new budget, especially the new taxes, which were announced Thursday in parliament by Finance Minister Abdur Razzaq.

Minas, a former army general, said the new taxes were essential to raise domestic funds for the country's \$1.7 billion development programme. He said the rest of the money would come from donor nations.

But the opposition labelled the budget as "anti-people" and demanded the government resign and order fresh elections under a neutral caretaker government.

The opposition accuses Ershad, a former army general, of rigging parliamentary elections to retain power.

Police, meanwhile, said they recovered the bodies of two people apparently killed during the night.

SHADYSIDE, Ohio, June 17. (AP): Searchers recovered the bodies of four people yesterday, bringing to 15 the confirmed death toll from a flash flood, authorities said. About three dozen people remained missing.

Among the dead was a 5-year-old girl, whose body was found in McMahon creek early yesterday, said Chuck Vogt, Belmont county coroner's investigator. The girl and her six-year-old brother were killed when Thursday night's flood swept their mobile home from its concrete mooring.

Capt. Jim Boling of the Ohio air national guard said the number of people missing was revised yesterday evening to 34. Previous reports from Belmont county authorities had given the number as 51.

Ohio emergency management agency spokesman Ned Martin said some of those listed as missing had informed relatives or authorities they were safe. Boling said others found dead may never have been

34 still missing

listed as missing.

In all, some 700 rescue workers — including 341 members of the Ohio national guard — are assisting flood victims.

Utility crews and local volunteers using chain saws, axes and shovels cleared the debris of more than 100 homes. A wall of water that washed over the banks of three creeks had destroyed the homes.

Gov. Richard Celeste, who toured the area for the second time yesterday, said he was shocked at the destruction.

"The damage ... was extraordinary. It was something that was beyond what I've seen from tornados and floods," he said.

Trucks hauled away stacks of flattened cars found in a gully south of the town. State highway patrol troopers and national guardsmen used dogs to sniff through the rubble and along the banks of the wege and pipe creeks in Belmont county, looking for survivors or bodies.

Kashmir

(Continued from Page 1)

injured two other people, witnesses and family members said.

The attack by the suspected

rebels

marked the first time

four members from one extended

Hindu family have been killed

since the latest episode in

the campaign for an independent

Kashmir began about six months

ago.

Government officials said

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Frogs, salamanders are disappearing world-wide

MIAMI, June 17, (AP): Frogs, toads and salamanders are vanishing around the world as trend biologists say deteriorating environment.

From the United States to India, Japan and Australia, scientists report whole amphibian populations have disappeared or are declining, even in protected reserves.

"There is no consistent pattern," says University of Miami biologist Marc Hayes. "There doesn't seem to be any obvious global cause — except that almost all seem to be man-made."

Hayes, who heads a US Committee on Declining Amphibians, says humans should worry not only because of the loss of animal species,

but because amphibians' highly sensitive biology make them the "canary in the coal mine" — an environmental early warning system.

Amphibians, including frogs, toads and salamanders, were the first land vertebrates. They appeared 400 million years ago, long before dinosaurs, and about 200 million years ago evolved into species similar to present-day varieties.

That loogevity appears imperiled. Studies presented at an international conference in February documented a sharp drop world-wide in amphibian populations.

Leopard frogs are no longer sighted in Canada. The common European toad has disappeared from regions in Norway. Three species of

miniature frogs vanished from Puerto Rico. Salamander populations are shrinking in the western United States, and Japan reports several frog species are in decline.

A recently discovered Australian frog that fascinated biologists because it hatched its young in its stomach apparently became extinct in only one season. The Monte Verde nature reserve in Costa Rica reports all of its amphibian populations have declined, and the golden toad that once carpeted its forests may be extinct.

Hayes says ultraviolet light is a known threat to frog's eggs, and increased amounts of the harmful radiation entering through the thinning ozone layer could be destructive. Another hazard for frogs is

"In some of the areas that are the most protected, frogs are disappearing, and we have no explanation for it," Hayes says. "There are a whole suite of species that have disappeared from very wide ranges in the United States."

David Wake, a zoologist at the University of California at Berkeley who chaired the February conference, says acid rain could be one of the culprits killing salamanders in the Rocky mountains of the western United States.

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Divers plan rescue of sea turtles as slick moves towards shore

GALVESTON, Texas, June 17. (AP): Loggerhead sea turtles are threatened by crude oil creeping closer to shore from the crippled supertanker *Mega Borg*, which spewed more goo into the Gulf of Mexico yesterday.

Divers were planning a rescue mission to pluck about five loggerhead turtles from waters near the slick's leading edge, said Edward Klima of the National Oceanographic and

Atmospheric Administration.

Loggerhead turtles are a threatened species that can grow up to 4 feet (1 metre) long and weigh up to 200 pound (90 kilos), he said.

He said if the turtles eat floating tar balls, mistaking them for food, they could die. No other marine life appeared to be threatened, he said.

About 4.6 million gallons (17.5 million litres) of oil have spilled from the Norwegian tanker since it was rocked by an explosion June 8, coast guard Lt Cmdr Frank Whipple said yesterday. The figure makes the *Mega Borg* spill the fifth-worst in US history.

Coast guard officials believe most of that oil evaporated or burned in the inferno following the explosion.

Chilean funeral to honour the dead

IQUIQUE, Chile, June 17, (Reuter): Thousands lined the streets of this northern town yesterday to bid farewell to 14 political prisoners discovered buried in a mass grave, victims of a military firing squad after Chile's 1973 military coup.

The crowds, some carrying Chilean flags tied with black ribbons, applauded steadily as the families of the dead filed into the town's simple wooden-roofed cathedral for a funeral mass. The coffins, bearing photographs of the dead and draped with flowers, were lined up in the middle of the church.

Former inmates of the prison camp where the victims were held took part in the mass and helped carry the coffins two miles (3 km) to the cemetery.

Outside people carried banners reading "truth and justice for the crimes committed by the dictatorship" and "Chile will always remember them."

The 14 buried were the first of 20 bodies discovered two weeks ago in the mass grave in the isolated fishing village of Pisagua, which was used by the military as a prison camp after a coup led by General Augusto Pinochet.

Extremely dry conditions kept the corpses, which had been buried in potato sacks, perfectly preserved, the bullet wounds showing and their features twisted in agony. One was identified after a letter to his father was found in his clothes.

The military said most were shot after "war tribunals" had condemned them or while allegedly trying to escape.

Former inmates of the camp, though as many as 2,000 passed after the coup, said prisoners were tortured there.

The discovery of the mass grave has put pressure on the government of President Patricio Aylwin, who took office from Pinochet three months ago, to investigate human rights violations committed during 16 1/2 years of Pinochet's rule.

Santiago Archbishop Carlos Oviedo said last week that Pinochet, who is still commander-in-chief of the army, should be held responsible for abuses that occurred under his government. More than 700 people disappeared in the repression of leftists, according to the Catholic church.

The military claimed their acts were justified by a state of "internal war" the country was in after the toppling of Marxist President Salvador Allende.

Ecuador: Voters angered by President Rodrigo Borja's failure to control inflation are expected to deliver a sharp blow to his centre-left party in congressional elections, analysts said.

The big winner is expected to be the Conservative Party of former President Leon Febres Cordero, who has promised to put "Borja and his incompetent ministers" in their place.

Rancor has arisen between the two politicians since a closely contested 1984 runoff.

If Borja's party loses control of Congress, his leadership could suffer from the same fractious, paralysing battles with legislators that characterised Febres Cordero's 1984-1988 rule.

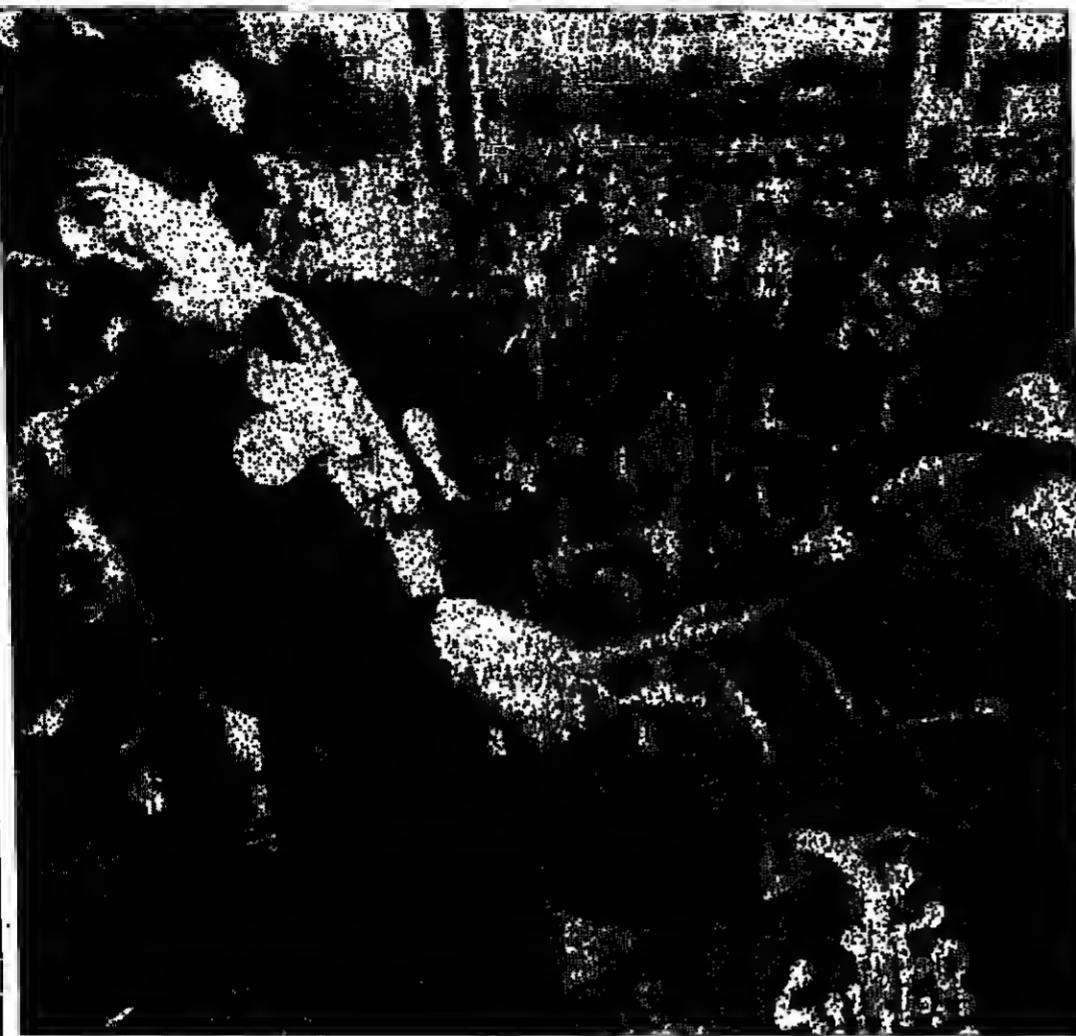
Borja's Democratic Left Party is expected to lose half of the 30 seats it holds in the 72-member unicameral congress, according to voter surveys.

Polls indicate that Febres Cordero's Social Christian Party will increase its seats from seven to between 15 and 20.

Ecuador has 15 registered parties and at least a dozen are expected to elect members to congress.

At stake are 60 seats from districts representing Ecuador's 21 provinces. The seats have two-year terms.

Twelve seats with national constituencies have four-year terms and will not be contested until 1992. (AP)



Bicycle ride

Eight foot tall clown Professor Crump was among those entertaining over 30,000 entrants in the fifteenth annual London to Brighton bicycle ride. (Reuter wirephoto)

Centam summit begins

Discuss ways to improve economies

ANTIGUA, Guatemala, June 17, (UPI): Six presidents sat down yesterday for a Central American summit to "put the wars behind us" and discuss ways to improve their struggling economies.

The two-day summit began yesterday morning in Antigua, a Spanish colonial town lined with cobblestone streets and topped with red-tile roofs in a valley about 30 miles (48 km) from Guatemala City.

The meeting got off to a late start as presidents, economic ministers, foreign ministers and other officials from Guatemala, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama gathered around television sets to watch Costa Rica play Brazil in the World Cup.

A Costa Rican government source said President Rafael Calderon, an avid soccer fan, had asked the night before that he be able to watch "at least the

first half." Costa Rica lost 1-0.

In a speech opening the summit, Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo urged his colleagues "to put the wars behind us and begin constructing the means for an exchange of ideas to strengthen democracy."

"If war is an act against humanity, then poverty is an act for which humanity is responsible," Cerezo said. "We have to confront the problems of poverty, injustice and political and social differences between

us."

The stated theme of the summit was to seek ways to collectively improve the region's economies, including the formation of a Central American Economic Community along the lines of the European Economic Community for the six Central American countries to trade as a bloc on world markets.

"To do that, we first have to remove the internal obstacles to exchange," said Guatemalan Foreign Minister Ariel Rivera.

"If we can't openly trade among ourselves, how can we open up to the outside?"

Mid-way through yesterday's work session, the presidents confirmed individually that free trade in the region and finding new markets for Central American goods figured prominently in the talks.

Costa Rican President Rafael Calderon said his country, having the most stable economy of the six nations, would have nothing to do with forming a common market.

"The situation of Costa Rica is very similar to what other Central America countries aspire to be," he said. "We have to be very clear in promoting competition between ourselves."

US Secretary of State James Baker was scheduled to arrive in Guatemala tonight and meet separately with each of the presidents.

Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo, asked if meeting individually with Baker would hamper opportunities for cohesion, said "we are going to meet with him with a united front."



Chamorro thanks Cristian for offering her a chair June 16 during the opening ceremony of the Central American Economic Summit. (Reuter wirephoto)

Ortega's seven-foot concrete wall divides residents of Nicaraguan capital

MANAGUA, Nicaragua, June 17, (AP): A seven-foot (two-metre) concrete wall surrounding former president Daniel Ortega's home has become a symbol of the bitterness lingering between the Sandinistas and the conservatives who beat them in last February's elections.

The wall, with watchtowers and armed men, surrounds nearly two city blocks enclosing the residence of the former president. It cuts off a street that divided the blocks and passed right in front of the house.

With Ortega's 10-year rule over, the city govern-

ment now wants to tear down the wall and open the street.

But Sandinista supporters have painted pictures on the wall hoping to protect it. Neighbours have camped out in front of it to block wrecking crews.

Mayor Arnoldo Aleman says the wall must come down, at least the section that blocks a street in front of Ortega's house.

"The Berlin Wall came down, and so will this one," Aleman told the Associated Press. "I do not care if they put a Picasso on it."

Ortega's sign-painting supporters were unper-

suaded.

"This is not Berlin, Aleman," said one sign painter on the wall.

When the mayor threatened to send a city crew to tear down the wall, neighbours — many of whom had their own modest homes built by the Sandinista government — organised a protest and slept next to the wall to protect it.

Then members of the Sandinista Cultural Association painted murals on the wall and challenged the mayor to destroy "art."

"They are not artists," Aleman said. "They are just a bunch of shiftless bums."

But bright coloured murals now adorn most of the wall in front of the house, and volunteer Sandinista workers mow the grass and pull weeds on the wall. The demolition crews held back.

Aleman gave up on his attempts temporarily, but the city filed a complaint with the Interior Ministry demanding that the street be opened.

"It is up to the minister now," Aleman said. "He has to act."

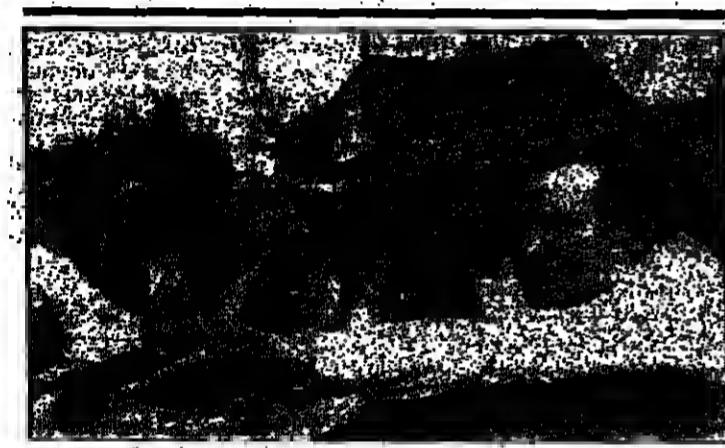
Loves 3 things

President Guillermo Endara says he loves three things in this world, God, the Panamanian people and his wife.

Endara, 54, married 23-year-old Ana Mae Diaz in a two-hour Roman Catholic ceremony at Metropolitan United States and Latin American and European countries were among the guests.

**Wasn't that great mate?**

A senior Welsh guard breaks into a smile with a colleague while inspecting his uniform during the Trooping of the Colour June 16. This event is to mark the official birthday of Queen Elizabeth II. (Reuter wirephoto)

**Protest suspended**

Solidarity leader Lech Walesa (shown above right) persuaded farmers Saturday to suspend a protest over low milk prices that had blocked roads and shut down dairies in northern Poland.

It was the second such success for Walesa in three weeks. On May 26, he got farmers to end a strike that was paralyzing Poland's Baltic ports.

The announcement that the protest in the Mlawa region, 80 miles (130 kilometers) north of Warsaw, was suspended until July 3 came after three hours of talks between Walesa and disgruntled farmers.

In both disputes, the protesters demanded government intervention to protect them from the harsh effects of the government's shock treatment to transform Poland's socialist economy into a free-market system. The government, however, has stuck to its vow not to make special concessions.

The farmers complained that their local dairy, deeply in debt, has not yet been paid for milk delivered in May and that the price it paid for their milk was cut to 2 cents a quart in June, compared to 5 to 6 cents in April. (Reuter wirephoto)

Victory repairs taking 70 years**Battle of Trafalgar**

PORTRUSH, England, June 17. (Reuter): The battle of Trafalgar was won in less than a day but restoring the badly damaged flagship which led the British fleet to victory is taking more than 70 years.

HMS Victory, which defeated the French and Spanish and scuppered Napoleon's plans to invade Britain almost two centuries ago, now sits wrapped in scaffolding in Portsmouth harbour in southern England.

A dozen Defence Ministry shipwrights swarm over the bow of the black-and-yellow ship.

The restoration, which began in 1922, is now about 60 per cent complete and should be finished by 1996, ready for the 200th anniversary of Trafalgar celebrations in Portsmouth in 2005, said Ken Poate, head of the shipwrights.

The outnumbered British warships under Admiral Horatio Nelson defeated the French and Spanish fleet under French Admiral Pierre de Villeneuve west of Cape Trafalgar, off the Spanish Mediterranean coast, on October 21, 1805.

French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte subsequently abandoned his plans to invade Britain.

"We were able to inflict a defeat of such magnitude against the French at Trafalgar that they were never again able to threaten our shores," said Lieutenant-Commander John Whitehead, the present commanding officer of the Victory, which is still regarded as part of the British Navy.

Nelson was shot and mortally wounded by a French musketeer in the fighting. His body was preserved in a barrel of brandy and sent to England to be buried in Westminster Abbey.

The restoration of the victory is a painstaking task.

"Every piece is moulded from the original," said Poate, referring to the replanking work.

His shipwrights have no original plans of the Victory to guide them. Instead, the craftsmen must take out every piece of oak—often rotted with damp and gnawed by the death watch beetle—and replace it with more durable and beetle-resistant Burmese teak or cheaper African iroko wood.

The British taxpayer is currently paying £2 million (\$3.2 million) a year to restore the Victory. Much of the expense was due to the high-quality teak, which cost up to £3,000 (\$4,800) per cubic metre.

Tories split over timing of next general polls

LONDON, June 17. (Kuna): The government of UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is split over the timing of the next general election, following further bad news this week about the UK economy, it was reported in London today.

The Daily Telegraph newspaper said some ministers believe the impact of continuing high inflation, which has now reached almost 10 per cent, and high interest rates, have wrecked any chances of calling an early election.

The problem is compounded by new divisions in the cabinet about the timing of Britain's entry into

Wanted: formal jobs for UK royals

LONDON, June 17. (Reuter): Britain's Queen Elizabeth has asked Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to find formal jobs for some of her royal family, the Sunday Express newspaper says.

It quoted a member of the Queen's Privy Council, an advisory group of elder statesmen, as saying she "firmly believes that it would be helpful if the younger royals...could be involved in work based on the principle of service and responsibility."

He said Queen Elizabeth particularly wants clear-cut roles for her youngest son Prince Edward,

a royal marine drop-out, and the helicopter-flying Duchess of York, wife of naval aviator Prince Andrew.

The councillor, who was not identified, said the request for "workable options" from the government was made at a recent audience at Buckingham Palace.

There was no immediate comment from the palace on the newspaper report.

Prince Edward's low-key job with composer Andrew Lloyd Webber's Theatre Company and the Duchess' expensive lifestyle, largely funded by the British taxpayer, have led to frequent lampooning in the popular press.

Prince Charles, heir to the throne and an outspoken critic of environmental pollution, has



Members of the royal family watch the flypast during the Trooping of the Colour June 16. They are (from left to right) Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Philip, Prince

Express said government jobs could be hard to find because many posts could embroil the royal family in political controversy.

All British cabinet ministers

and other eminent people appointed by the queen belong to the 350-member Privy Council, whose main function is to advise the crown on royal proclamations.

Thousands of people turned out yesterday to celebrate the 64th birthday of Queen Elizabeth II, who was honoured with a massive and colourful parade by British troops.

The pro-monarchy Sunday

Express

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During her long career

Burma rebels warn junta

MANERPLAW, Burma, June 17. (UPI) Burma's armed rebels, in a show of support for the newly elected opposition party, have promised to end 40 years of civil war once a democratic federal union fair to minorities is formed in Burma.

In a meeting yesterday at its jungle headquarters at Manerplaw, about 130 miles (210 km) east of Rangoon, the Democratic Alliance of Burma also warned its forces would launch a military offensive if the ruling military junta did not turn over power to the pro-democracy opposition party which won last month's elections.

"The federal system which has been demanded and fought for by the indigenous nationalities does not mean secessionism," the alliance of 21 rebel groups said in a statement issued after the meeting.

The alliance promised that once a democratic union treating all ethnic groups fairly was set up, the long civil war would end and the groups would "never destroy such a federal union nor secede from such a union."

Previously ethnic groups in the alliance accused the central government of discriminating against them and demanded the right to secede from any federal system.

The demand sparked a sporadic civil war that began in 1948 and still continues in Burma's border areas despite strong countermeasures by the Burmese military.

The alliance statement said such a union should provide states for each major ethnic group, power-sharing between the central government and the states, a multi-party system, and guaranteed human rights.

It demanded a smooth transition in power from the military government to the newly elected National League for Democracy and the release of NLD leaders under arrest.

"While we are waiting," said Gen. Bo Mya, the DAP president, "we will request other countries and organisations to pressure the military government, economically and politically, so it will hand over power to the NLD."

Bo Mya, who is commander of the ethnic Karen army, the strongest military group in the alliance, said foreign aid had enabled the Burmese military to hang onto power despite disastrous socialist economic policies.

Dissident student leader Moe The Zun, chairman of the All-Burma Students' Democratic Front, warned that if the military regime failed to turn over power, both student and ethnic rebel groups would intensify their attacks.

The student leader said there are more than 2,000 students fighting with ethnic Mon and Karen troops in lower Burma and 1,000 students fighting with the Kachin independence army.

Rebel sources in Bangkok have said, however, the students have little military capability and all the ethnic groups are short of weapons and ammunition.

Camp no better than Vietnam Galang Gulag

GALANG ISLAND, Indonesia, June 17. (UPI) Had he known about the conditions at Galang refugee camp, Nguyen Binh Tran says he never would have left home.

"I would rather be living temporarily in Vietnam," said Nguyen, who has had only a plastic sheet over his head for shelter since he arrived May 25 on this island, 30 miles (50 km) south of Singapore.

Tran is one of about 16,000 Indochinese refugees who call this 22-square-mile (57-km) island home. More than 3,000 boat people arrived in the UN-sponsored camp in May alone and officials predict that figure could be higher in June.

Low on funds and lacking roofing materials, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Organisation has resorted to stringing up plastic sheets above slabs of concrete to shelter the refugees.

The plastic offers little shade under the equatorial sun and no protection from the surprisingly chilly sea breezes that come at night, along with hordes of mosquitos.

The lucky refugees sleep in hammocks, but most have only a plastic beach mat to place on the concrete.

The nearest bathing place is a stream half a mile (1 km) away. The stream also served as a communal toilet until latrines were dug recently at the camp's edge.

UN staff are petitioning their Geneva headquarters for a near-doubling of their current annual budget of \$1.9 million, but the request comes at a time of refugee aid cuts.

A UN official said he was unaware that the United States, Australia and Britain each have

donated \$1 million to Galang since the United Nations issued an international plea for help in April.

"It (the money) hasn't filtered down to us here on the ground," he said.

Classes at the camp school, run by save the children, were suspended in March when the school was commandeered for living quarters. When it does operate, the school can seat only 650 of the children aged 5 to 16 — one-fifth of the camp total.

Medical care also has been stretched to the breaking point, camp workers say. People who are ill must walk up to 2 miles (3 km) to reach the island's only medical facility.

One section of the camp designated for unaccompanied minors under age 16. There are now 400 such minors and because the special barracks sleeps only 50, most of the children have been farmed out to refugee families. Five full-time Indonesian social workers keeping track of their welfare.

The Indonesian military recently arranged a rare tour of the facilities in hopes of attracting international attention to the refugees' predicament.

There have been nearly 10,000 arrivals at Galang this year, relief officials said, adding that many of the most recent arrivals had been pushed back to sea by Malaysian authorities. Malaysia denies the accusation.

But even Indonesia, which has been praised for its generosity with the refugees, is taking a leading role in the international push to stem the flow of boat people.



A group of Cambodian refugee children pose in the Indonesian camp island of Galang. (Reuter wirephoto)



Balancing on bike

A bicycle attendant pedals a bike rack in the Philippines while balancing four other bikes in a bid to attract tourists in a public park in Manila. (Reuter wirephoto)

Filipinos back Cory stance

MANILA, June 17. (Kuna) Government-conducted survey shows that most Filipinos agreed with the decision of President Corazon Aquino to serve to the United States government the notice of termination of the bases agreement during the recently concluded US military bases exploratory talks.

Press Under Secretary Horacio Paredes today told reporters that the findings were based on the survey conducted recently by the bureau of communication services under the office of the press secretary. Paredes' remarks were carried by Xinhua news agency.

The sample population of the

No more festivities

Top security at Akihito's coronation

TOKYO, June 17. (AP) Security and safety are being given top priority as the government prepares to hold its first coronation in more than six decades, a celebration leftist radicals have vowed to crash.

In 1928, tens of thousands of cheering, flag-waving Japanese turned out to join in the fun when rice was planted for the late emperor Hirohito's coronation.

Along with balloons and fireworks, the daylong festival featured drummers, fan dancers, government dignitaries and even an aerial stunt show.

But times have changed.

This time there will be no announcement of where to find the two "sacred" paddies used to grow rice that Emperor Akihito will offer to the gods after his Nov. 12 enthronement. The rice is traditionally planted in early June.

The government will only say that the rice will be grown in the countless paddies of two prefectures (states), Akita in northern Japan and Oita in the west.

"All we can say is that some of the rice will come from somewhere in Akita," said prefecture spokesman Masahiko Otomo.

The final word on exactly where the paddies are located will be made public after the rice is harvested.

Moving two ships from western Japan to Tokyo last month for Akihito's coronation became a major tactical operation. Military helicopters and a convoy of disguised police trucks whisked the disassembled, crated thrones to the capital under cover of darkness.

Authorities say the tight security is needed to guard against attacks from leftist radicals, who have vowed to disrupt any ceremonies related to the coronation.

But a spokesman for the ultra-left Chukaku-Ha, or middle core faction, said in an interview that his often violent group "will continue the struggle to crush the coronation."

The spokesman agreed to be interviewed on condition he not be named.

The anti-monarchy radical left represents only a fraction of the population, which for the most part either accepts or supports the imperial household.

During the mystical rice ritual, which will be held after Akihito is formally enthroned, the emperor is believed to commune with the sun goddess and other Shinto deities.

The rite, called the Daijōsai or great food offering ritual, will be conducted in two specially built halls on the Tokyo Imperial Palace grounds late at night and continue into the predawn morning.

Though part of imperial coronations for more than 1,000 years, the Daijōsai's religious nature has created an intense debate over whether government plans to provide funds for the ritual violate the postwar constitution. The budget for the entire coronation is 8.1 billion yen (\$35.6 million).

Gorbachev to visit Japan

TOKYO, June 17. Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said today that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev will visit Japan early next year, and expressed hope the visit will be a turning point in bilateral relations.

The visit would be the first to Japan by a top Soviet leader, although four Japanese prime ministers have visited the Soviet Union.

According to a letter I received, President Gorbachev is to visit Japan early next year. Kaifu told a seminar sponsored by the governing Liberal Democratic Party. He did not give an exact date for the visit.

Xuan Ke crusades for Nakhi culture

LIJIANG, China, June 17. (AP) Xuan Ke is a crusader trying to save the culture of his Nakhi people from being swallowed by the Chinese.

Xuan, a musician by training and high school English teacher by trade, is an impassioned man who is convinced he will succeed.

"This is a culture that's going to die out," he said bluntly in English. "The Han [Chinese] love that culture."

For two years, Xuan and his 16-member orchestra, including four musicians in their 80s and four in their 70s, have given concerts of traditional Nakhi music for foreign tourists.

"It's not for the 4-yuan (85-cent) admission fee that we do this. It's for the preservation of our traditional culture and arts," he explains at the start of each concert. The orchestra has performed 79 times for a total of 3,900 people from 31 countries.

The musicians are giving lessons to 22 young people in an attempt to preserve music once passed from father to son.

Nakhi people, Naxi in Chinese, have lived for 2,020 years in this lovely valley of northern Yunnan province near the first bend of the Yangtze river.

They had a matriarchal society in ancient times. Property belonged to the woman and there was no marriage. Women took lovers, who visited only at night, and children never knew their fathers.

Only one group of Nakhis in a remote mountain basin remains matriarchal, but even among other Nakhis, older women dressed in traditional lambskin capes and blue aprons still have more authority.

According to Nakhi history books, the Han Chinese arrived in Lijiang in 1428, when millions of soldiers were sent out to border areas.

Only 250,000 Nakhis remain, making up 52 per cent of Lijiang's population. Their way of living has become similar to the Chinese, and about half the Nakhi language now is Chinese.

"But inside our hearts runs a kind of special blood," Xuan said.

The champion of Nakhi culture is 60, a refined man with a dark, square face, gold-framed glasses and a quick laugh.

He can talk for hours about his music, his life and his people, filling up an ashtray with cigarette butts. His stories are punctuated with jokes, often self-deprecating.

Xuan was imprisoned for 20 years for criticising the government during the Hundred Flowers Movement of 1957, when intellectuals were encouraged to speak out.

Since returning to Lijiang in 1978, he has used whatever means available to preserve the culture. He spent five years translating from English to Chinese a book by a Russian adventurer who lived in Lijiang for nearly a decade before the communists gained power in 1949.

(See also Page 12)

Drop in TV viewing

US households switch off

LOS ANGELES, June 17. (AP) Is the US "couch potato" dead? Television viewers across the country appear to be tuning out and turning off in record numbers, upsetting broadcasters and advertisers alike.

The latest survey by the respected A.C. Nielsen Co. indicates that 2 million US households have simply switched off their television sets — a trend that could spell millions of dollars in lost broadcast revenues.

Nielsen offers no explanation for this drastic and unpredictable decline, but US TV networks, ABC, CBS and NBC say they just don't believe millions of people have abruptly stopped watching.

Others blame a switch to cable television and even home video.

"The use of the set has been a very predictable behaviour," said Alan Wurtzel, ABC's research chief. "All of a sudden, the rug has been pulled out and the behaviour has been changed and no one can explain why."

"Nielsen has lost people they can't account for," he added. "According to them, they have simply gone away."

To realise why Nielsen's figures have turned US TV on its ear is to understand what the company's rating system is the foundation upon which the television industry is built.

"People metres" installed in 4,000 homes across the country provide the ratings that decide which shows make it and which don't. But more importantly, the Nielsen numbers provide the base for what networks charge advertisers for commercial time.

And these are the Nielsen figures for the first

quarter of this year that have caused such a stir. Seemingly overnight, overall television viewing is down 4 per cent, as compared to the same period in 1989.

In prime-time audiences of women between the ages of 18 and 49 — an audience crucial to advertisers because this group buys most consumer goods — viewership is down nearly 10 per cent.

Enter the controversy.

The networks say the Nielsen "people metre" system, used nationally since 1987, is fundamentally flawed and has produced incorrect numbers.

As proof of that alleged inaccuracy, the networks point to localised ratings compiled during a May survey season, which showed a much lower drop-off than the "people metre" counted.

Wurtzel and his counterparts at NBC and CBS blame the apparent drop-off in viewers on "fatigue." Nielsen families are just plain pooped when it comes to punching a button every time they switch the dial, the networks say.

"We think all of these things are related to the people metre," Wurtzel said. "Every time you turn the channel, you've got to punch this button. We're asking people to do something that is far beyond what is reasonable."

Before 1987, Nielsen's national survey relied on boxes that required no viewer effort. The old system told what was on the tube, but not who was watching it. The people metre is designed to show which family member is viewing.

Nielsen stands behind its numbers, saying it has checked and rechecked the people metres and found them to be accurate.

American accused of selling SDI plan

LOS ANGELES, June 17. (UPI) A US engineer was in custody yesterday accused of selling or agreeing to sell "Star Wars" missile secrets to four Japanese firms, US government prosecutors said.

Prosecutors said they were also investigating whether Ronald Hoffman, 51, had sold, or agreed to sell, the top secret technology to firms in West Germany and Italy and to Israel's Ministry of Defense.

Hoffman is accused of using his small defense contracting firm, Plasma Technology of Los Angeles, to export a computer software system known as Constam, an integral part of the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI).

Assistant US attorney William Fahey said his dealings with Japan netted Hoffman "hundreds of thousands" of dollars.

He was formally charged in court on Friday and held on \$500,000 bail.

SDI, popularly known as Star Wars, is a programme to build a space-based anti-missile shield.

Prosecutors said they did not know if the Japanese companies, which were not named in the government's affidavit, realised they were receiving illegal export material.

In the affidavit, filed to federal court in Los Angeles, the government said Constam was a computer programme designed to analyse the exhaust trail of launched missiles. This analysis enabled tracking stations to identify the type of missiles so a decision could be made on how best to counteract them.

Hoffman is specifically charged with violating US export laws by exporting material without proper authorisation. The affidavit said he had failed to get State Department clearance before he entered into agreements with the Japanese.

He was arrested on Thursday after he accepted a cheque for \$150,000 from US customs agents posing as brokers for South African businessmen, prosecutors said.

Roughly 150 people work at the Mutsu facility, most seconded from construction and electrical power plants.

"We have no choice but to accept the ship, even if it is a nuclear project, because we need to stimulate the local economy," said Fujio Kikuchi, deputy mayor of Mutsu city, located in the poorest region.

Floods kill more than 100 in China's southern province

BEIJING, June 17. (AP) More than 100 people died in floods caused by torrential rains this week in China's southern province of Hunan, an official newspaper said today.

The flooding also killed three people in adjoining Jiangxi province, a separate report said.

Romanians seek political asylum

Disenchanted with new government, fear reprisals

TELESE, Italy, June 17, (AP): The foot soldiers of the Romanian revolution huddled around a small television Sunday, watching news reports of their pleas for political asylum in the West.

The angry young men whose involvement in last December's revolution earned them free trips to see Romania play in the World Cup said they want to defect because they are disenchanted with the new government. They said they fear reprisals if they return.

Thirty-nine Romanians travelled to Rome and Naples on Saturday to formally request asylum in Italy. The interior ministry said it would decide tomorrow whether to consider the request.

Fazay in Telese, a mountain village northeast of Naples that has welcomed about 1,000 Romanians, said as

many as 100 people would try to defect because they think Romanian President Ion Iliescu has subverted their revolution. "I was in the front lines of the revolution. I was beaten by the Securitate and arrested, then beaten by the police," said Nicolae Bucataru. "But now I see the system has not changed. I am very angry because many Bucharest people died for nothing."

Bucataru, 25, was working in a factory that makes eyeglasses when he heard on Dec. 21 about the protests against communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. He said he left his job and led a group of protesters to the Bucharest headquarters of Securitate.

Bucataru said he was hospitalized for two months with injuries to his head, face and ribs. After taking a job at a small

Bucharest newspaper, "Libertate," he heard that Iliescu's government was offering to send 1,000 people involved in leading the revolution to the World Cup as a reward.

Iliescu, a one-time Ceausescu protege who turned against his boss, took power after Ceausescu was overthrown. Iliescu was elected president by a huge majority in nation-wide elections last month.

But Bucataru and other would-be defectors contended the government planted 200 former Securitate and army officers among the 1,000-person delegation to the World Cup.

The presence of the alleged Securitate members has caused tension among the Romanians sleeping in tents and enjoying free food in Telese. Those trying to defect said the secret police were circulating

among them and threatening reprisals.

"I am afraid to go back to Romania," said Marian Baciu, 27, a metallurgist who went to Rome with Bucataru to seek asylum. "But my parents are old and I worry that Securitate will arrest them if I do not go back."

Young men talking excitedly about plans to stay in Italy dropped their voices to a whisper Sunday morning as some tent neighbours passed by. Would-be defectors speaking English to a reporter quickly switched to Romanian as one man neared.

Telese Mayor Pino D'Occio said representatives of 100 Romanians begged him Saturday to allow them to stay. But D'Occio said 30 others looked to the army asked to be sent home on the first available flight to avoid being confused with those seeking asylum.

Welcome awaits Mandela in US

NEW YORK, June 17, (Reuters): Nelson Mandela will have Americans at his feet this week, fighting for a glimpse of him, hanging on his every word, buying T-shirts, jackets and caps bearing his name and donating millions of dollars to his cause.

Millions of Americans are waiting to cheer a man unseen and hardly heard from for more than a quarter of a century, a man who emerged unbroken from jail to South Africa in February to become the voice of oppressed black people around the world.

During a 13-day US tour starting on Wednesday, the black nationalist leader will receive a red-carpet welcome at New York's Kennedy Airport and a ticker tape parade down Broadway.

He will meet President George Bush at the White House and has invitations to address the United Nations, a joint session of Congress and mass rally at New York's Yankee Stadium.

His schedule is packed as tightly as a visit by Pope John Paul or Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev — 34 events, ranging from motorcade to meetings with business and political leaders, in eight cities from coast to coast.

Questions about his stamina abound. He is 71 but, as one organiser said, "he has lots of time to make up after spending 27 years in prison."

His visit follows a European tour during which he has again demanded that sanctions against South Africa must be maintained until it abolished apartheid.

His first stop will be New York, a city reeling under the weight of racial tensions and presided over for the first time by a black mayor, David Dinkins.

He will spend three days as a guest of Dinkins at the mayor's official Gracie Mansion residence and his first event after arrival is the city's highest honour — a ticker tape parade down Broadway.

For his parade, the authorities have designed a special car — a bullet-proof, "Mandela mobile" designed to let him be seen and protected at the same time.

Police likened the security arrangements to those accorded Gorbachev. The police overtime bill is expected to top one million dollars.

One controversy arose over Mandela's decision to meet three Puerto Rican nationalists, once convicted of attacking Congress in the 1950s, and honour them as former political prisoners.

Dinkins at first described the three as "assassins" but he later softened his tone, noting that they had been pardoned after serving 25 years in jail.

Protests
New York's large Jewish community has been working hard to prevent Jewish protests marring the visit. A handful of Jewish activists were upset by Mandela's comparison of Israel to South Africa and by his meeting with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Mandela went out of his way at a meeting in Geneva with US Jewish leaders to assure them that he supported Israel's right to exist and he praised Jews for their support in the fight against apartheid.

One activist
Rabbi Avi Weiss, who has led protests from Auschwitz to the Vatican, said he might hold a demonstration during Mandela's visit, even though he respected him and had long opposed apartheid.

"You have to be insane to give a ticker tape parade to a man who compares Israel to South Africa in a city that has the largest Jewish population in the world," he said. But he added that many people were urging him not to stage a protest.

From New York
Mandela will go to Boston and then to Washington next Sunday for the most important meetings of his trip. He will meet Bush and Secretary of State James Baker and address a joint session of Congress.

The Atlanta
Journal-Constitution reported recently that South Africa captured Mandela in 1962 as a result of a tip from a paid informant of the US Central Intelligence Agency.

Bush said he did not know if the story was true or if he would offer Mandela an apology.

From Washington, Mandela will go to Atlanta where he will lay a wreath at the grave of America's greatest champion of civil rights, Martin Luther King, and then on to Miami, Detroit, Los Angeles and Oakland.

Mandela
Mandela flew to Canada on Sunday after an overnight stay in Britain to visit his friend Oliver Tambo, president of the African National Congress (ANC).

Speaking to reporters at London's Heathrow airport, Mandela said:
"I met Mr Tambo here and he is recovering very well."

Adrian Lamir, one of about 50 Romanians seeking political asylum holds up a newspaper clipping with his photo taken during the December 1989 Romanian revolution. (Reuters wirephoto)

Romania pledges to uphold democracy

US to withhold all but humanitarian aid

BUCHAREST, Romania, June 17, (AP): The government, seeking to contain damage to its image abroad, pledged today to play by democratic rules after earlier thanking coal miners who savagely attacked suspected opponents.

"The government is prepared to assure appropriate measures for freedom of political expression for all with the exception of acts of instigation and of neo-fascist propaganda," said the statement published today.

"It (the government) also demands that those responsible ensure the total freedom of operation of the democratic institutions of the press,

radio and television and... instill firmly democratic institutions in our country," the statement said.

The statement was carried in the pro-government Adevarul newspaper. It contained no specific guarantees to individuals, groups and institutions targeted by the miners.

Tens of thousands of miners descended on Bucharest Thursday after president-elect Ion Iliescu appealed for support in the wake of violent clashes between police and demonstrators seeking to oust him and other former communists from politics.

Government critics and student leaders say Iliescu and other government leaders want to revive totalitarian rule.

The miners destroyed opposition party offices, shut down publications critical of Iliescu and his National Salvation Front, beat or threatened well-known opposition figures and clobbered Bucharest residents at random. They left Friday as they came, at the behest of Iliescu, who thanked them for their support in a national televised speech on Friday.

The government's statement appeared designed primarily to deflect indignation over the role played by the miners in the three days of mob rule of the capital.

Western governments and international human rights organisations condemned the violence.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said the United States would withhold all but humanitarian aid, and the European Economic Community postponed a trade and economic co-operation agreement with Romania.

There was no clear indication why Iliescu had called on the miners, but government officials suggested the police had been ill-prepared to handle the demonstrators.

Iliescu said Saturday he was contemplating creation of a National Guard to protect the government and that it would be composed "of clean, loyal, honest people who can act resolutely at exceptional times."

"We know that we can rely on you," Iliescu told the miners Friday before sending them home, saying he had "made note" of some miners' wishes to join the paramilitary.

Among the miners' targets was the headquarters of the National Peasant Party.

Standing there Saturday among shards of broken glass, smashed typewriters and furniture, party Secretary-General Liviu Petrescu said the struggle for democracy would continue.

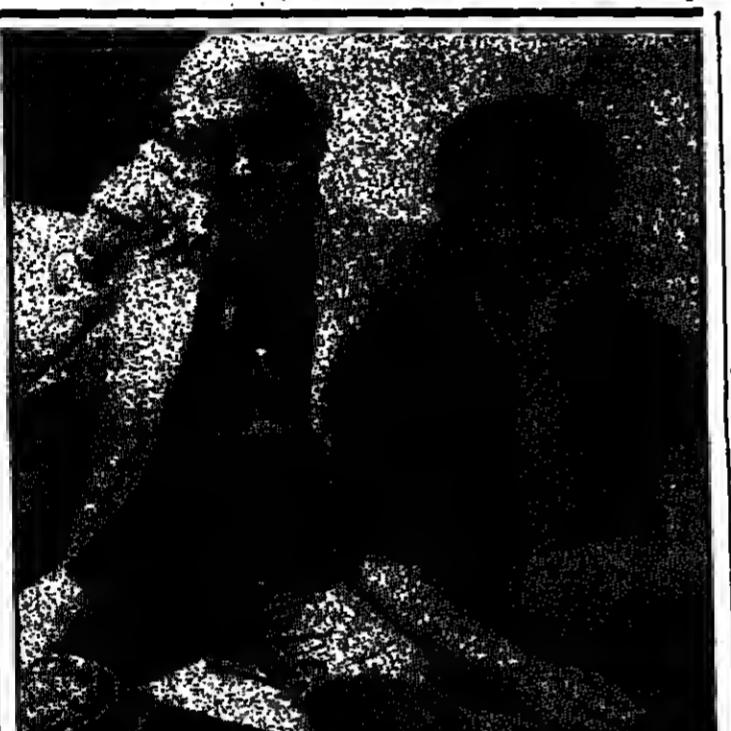
"Emotionally we are ready to start today," he told a reporter. "Logically, it could take weeks."

The centre of the city was quiet today, precisely half a year after the outbreak of the bloody revolution that swept communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu from power.

The Romanian government yesterday said "debate the possibility of declaring a temporary moratorium on the (independence) act for a period during negotiations" with Moscow.

The Romanian government, under fire from the opposition and Western governments for suppressing dissent, pledged yesterday to probe complaints of vigilante action by miners and ensure they were not repeated.

It said it had no hand in the sacking by miners of opposition party offices and vowed that its commitment to establishing democracy in Romania was irreversible.



'Ex-reds will keep poll lead'

UDF, BSP main contestants

SOFIA, June 17, (Reuters): Bulgarian Prime Minister Andrei Lukanov said former communists would substantially increase their lead in today's second round of the country's first free parliamentary elections in more than four decades.

The reformist Lukanov, who helped reshape the image of the communists after the fall of the hardliner Todor Zhivkov last November, is among 162 candidates in 81 single-member constituencies seeking seats in a new national assembly.

The main contestants are the Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) and Lukanov's Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP), the former Communist Party.

"I expect that we will have nearly half the seats that are being contested," Lukanov told reporters after casting his vote in Sofia.

The BSP won 47.5 per cent of the first round vote compared with 36.2 per cent for the UDF, which is an alliance of 16 opposition groups.

The BSP needs to add 29 seats to the 172 it already has to ensure a majority. The UDF has 107.

The BSP's victory was predicted in pre-election surveys and it is set to become the only former

Communist Party in a Warsaw Pact state to win a mandate to rule in a free election.

Asked what would happen if the BSP failed to clear the 50 per cent hurdle, Lukanov replied: "It would not be a tragedy. We would still have a great presence in the national assembly and it would not be possible to form a government without the participation of the BSP."

He added: "A strong government in Bulgaria is a coalition government or any government which is supported by all the major political forces in parliament. Otherwise you cannot have a strong government in Bulgaria."

UDF leader Zhelyu Zhelev has rejected as political suicide calls to join the BSP in a coalition government.

But Lukanov said he expected a shift in the UDF's attitude after the election was over.

The Moscow-educated economist, one of the more popular BSP politicians, faced a relatively easy challenge from a little known UDF candidate in his constituency of Pleven.

But he is already assured of a place in the 400-seat national assembly as half the seats are allocated from party lists.

There are nine million Serbs — the country's largest ethnic group — and they are considered pivotal for the country's future development.

The protesters demanded that free elections already held in two of Yugoslavia's six republics be conducted in Serbia by the end of the year. They chanted "Slobodan, you are a traitor" and burned Milosevic's picture.

The rally sank Milosevic's vision of a

homogenous Serbian nation united behind the platform of the Serbian Communist Party, a Western diplomat said.

Serbian leaders have said that they will not hold elections until the republic adopts a new constitution, which could take one year.

Unlike reformist communists in Slovenia and Croatia who paved the way for free elections in April and May, Serbia's communist leaders have stalled on reforms and have not allowed opposition groups to register officially.

In an apparent attempt to counter criticism, the Serbian party said it would merge with the Socialist Alliance, a pro-communist umbrella organisation, into a new Socialist Party which would run in elections.

But the announcement provoked a mixed response and was denounced at the rally as a plot by the communists to gain time and further postpone democratic reforms.

Angered at what they said was biased reporting on the rally, journalists from the daily newspaper Politika and Belgrade Television, both of which reflect the views of the Serbian party, publicly disassociated themselves from the reports.

"Cracks are appearing in Milosevic's Serbia," a veteran Yugoslav journalist said. "It is hard to say how popular the opposition really is, but many people may vote for anyone just to get the communists out."

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World News Roundup

Airlines

Distance record: A Boeing 767 has set an unofficial world distance record for twin-engine commercial airliners by flying 9,253 miles (14,888 km) nonstop from Seattle to Nairobi, Kenya. Boeing Commercial Airplane Group said.

The flight by a new 767-200ER was completed Sunday and lasted 18 hours, 29 minutes, Boeing said Tuesday.

The plane was on the first leg of a flight to Royal Brunei Airlines, the national carrier of Brunei Darussalam. The country is on the island of Borneo in the Indonesian islands.

There were 20 passengers aboard and a flight crew of four. The aircraft, the first Boeing 767 for Royal Brunei's fleet, continued on to Brunei Monday.

Pending final verification, the National Aeronautic Association established the flight as a record, Boeing said. The previous record of 8,893 miles (14,208 km) was also set by a 767. (AP)

Paintings scratched: A vandal put deep scratches into three paintings, including one by Manet, at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art.

There have been no arrests in the case. Scratches were found in two 16th-century German works and in an 1880 painting by Manet, a French impressionist, said museum spokeswoman Lisa Austin.

The scratches were about as deep as a pen point, she said.

Three other paintings were found with faint pencil marks on them, but that marring was not thought to have been deliberate, or even recently done.

The German works damaged Friday were "Portrait of a Bearded Man" by Lucas Cranach the younger in 1538, and "Betrothal Portrait of a Lady" a 1558 work by Barthel Bruyn the younger. Both are part of the museum's permanent collection.

A scratch was found shortly after the gallery closed Thursday in Manet's "Still Life with Brocage," on loan from the Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh. (AP)

Attack spurred: A cat owner whose pet was bashed to death by his friends says he may have inadvertently spurred the attack when he shouted the animal's name — "Killer."

"I yelled out, 'Killer,' and I think they misunderstood what I said," said Gary Hegler, 43, of Fort Gratiot township.

Michael Wood, 34, and John Zeros, 33, were arraigned Wednesday on charges of maliciously destroying an animal belonging to someone else. The offense carries up to four years in prison. They were released on \$3,000 bond.

Hegler, who was not charged, said his two friends were at his house Friday.

"One guy was petting the cat and it scratched him. The cat was thrown and it stung the cat," he said. "I called out her name — 'Killer' I don't think they understood what I said." (AP)

Shara returns from Turkey: Foreign Minister Fouad Al Shara returned on Saturday night from talks in Turkey on border security and the waters of the Euphrates river.

The official Syrian News Agency (Sana) said Shara "stressed the need for reaching an agreement as soon as possible to guarantee a fair sharing of the Euphrates waters among Syria, Turkey and Iraq." (Reuters)

Yemenis seek confidence vote: The government of the three-week-old Yemeni republic outlined its policies to Parliament on Saturday, seeking its first vote of confidence.

Prime Minister Haider Abu Bakr Al Attas read a policy statement to the legislature. Radio Sana said a committee was formed to study the programme before a vote on Tuesday. (Reuters)

Saddam, Saleh hold talks: Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and his Yemeni counterpart Ali Abdulla Saleh, last night held a second round of talks on bilateral relations and latest Arab developments.

Saddam has reiterated Iraq's support to the Yemeni unity saying that the unification will have positive effects on the Yemeni people. (Kuwait)

Conference in support of Iraq: More than 700 Islamic figures from 70 countries started a conference in Baghdad on Saturday in support of Iraq against US and Israeli threats, Iraqi officials said.

They said the three-day conference, attended by endowment and religious affairs ministers, clergymen and other Muslims, was aimed at "drafting a unified plan to confront challenges and plots against Iraq, the Arab nation and Muslims in general." (Reuters)

Ban on nationalist party: The Algerian Supreme Court has upheld a ban on a nationalist party formed in the 1930s that turned against the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) during the 1954-62 war of independence from France.

The Party of the Algerian People (PPA), formed by Messali Al Hadj, was a pioneer in the Algerian fight for independence from French colonial rule but later fell out with the FLN. (Reuters)

Mhayid visits Iraq: The director-general of the Jordanian security police, Fadih Ali Mhayid, arrived in Baghdad on Saturday for talks with Iraqi officials, the Iraqi News Agency reported.

The agency gave no details of the nature of the visit, believed to centre on co-ordination of security affairs between the two neighbouring Arab states. (Reuters)

Mengistu calls on Al Bashir: Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam has asked Sudanese military leader Gen. Omar Al Bashir for a summit meeting to "discuss pending issues between the two neighbouring countries," a senior Sudanese official said in Khartoum Saturday.

Acting Foreign Minister Abdalla Mohamed

chronicled the proceedings.

Twenty-four times more Americans die of cancer than of AIDS each year. But AIDS is clearly different.

Organisers of the AIDS meeting expect 1,800 members of the news media to attend, drawn both by the newsworthiness of AIDS research and the possibility of demonstrations and other street drama in San Francisco, the city with the nation's highest AIDS rate.

Such meetings are a staple of medical research, but they are not ordinarily under the media spotlight. Last month, for instance, 7,000 doctors gathered in Washington for the American Society of Clinical Oncology, the major US cancer meeting. About 100 reporters

chronicled the proceedings.

Organisers of the AIDS meeting expect 1,800 members of the news media to attend, drawn both by the newsworthiness of AIDS research and the possibility of demonstrations and other street drama in San Francisco, the city with the nation's highest AIDS rate.

Some scientists might find the publicity unseemly, but many seem to relish the intense, if fleeting, attention.

At this meeting, you will see a lot more positive news about successes in the vaccine field, testing in chimpanzees and rhesus monkeys and perhaps some

encouraging news in human beings," said Dr David Ho, an AIDS researcher at the University of California, Los Angeles.

While none of these reports is likely to suggest that a vaccine is close to being ready for widespread use, they at least should hint that such a preventive measure is possible.

"In the first five years of HIV (AIDS) virus research, anything related to vaccine research has been very discouraging," said Ho. "Over the past year, we have seen a lot more positive results."

Scientists will also report on the uses of AZT and experimental drugs by people who are infected with HIV but not yet sick.

The goal of such treatment is to keep them healthy, but the new studies show people quickly grow resistant to the helpful effects of the drugs.

Carter said the rebels gave no reason. But an EPLF spokesman in London said they had made it clear why they were withdrawing.

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Child votes in Algiers local polls: paper

Second time around for 5-year-old Imad, voted earlier in 89

ALGIERS, June 17, (AP): A child born in 1985 voted in local elections last week in which Algeria's rising Muslim fundamentalist party defeated the ruling National Liberation Front, the evening newspaper Horizons reported yesterday.

The Tuesday voting, the first free elections since Algeria gained independence from France in 1962, was the second time around for Imad Yaddaden. The French-language Horizons said he also voted in the February 1989 referendum which

opened the way to pluralism.

According to Horizons, Imad's father had tried to have his son's name removed from the voting list, where he was apparently mistakenly registered. Failing in his effort, he took his son to the polls with him in Al Harrach, near Algiers. Given his ballot and an envelope, Imad was sent into the booth to fulfill his citizen's duty. His father picked him up so he could place the ballot in a box, the paper said, calling Imad the world's youngest voter.

The forthright account of Imad's voting underscored criticism that the election for municipal and provincial council seats was riddled with fraud.

The Algerian League of Human Rights regretted yesterday the "irregularities and excesses which regrettably brought to light the failure of the administration in certain cases and recourse to undemocratic practices in others."

The Islamic Salvation Front won 853 of the 1,539 municipal councils at stake and

32 of 48 provincial councils. The FLN, which has ruled Algeria since its independence, carried 489 municipal councils and 14 provincial councils.

The official daily Al Moudjahid reported the fundamentalists' victory for the first time yesterday, reporting only that the Islamic Salvation Front had a majority in 55.4 percent of the communes. It provided no editorial comment and did not carry statements by Salvation Front's leader, Abassi Madani.

Israel keeps mum on new proposals

Cabinet meets: no steps to quell uprising discussed

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, June 17, (Reuters): Israeli officials insisted today that a new right-wing government would work for Middle East peace but declined to say what alternatives it would offer to a US proposal for talks with Palestinians in Cairo.

Cabinet ministers said after their first meeting that the government had not discussed new steps to quell a 30-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Cabinet Secretary Eliyakim Rubinstein denied press reports he had effectively rejected the US Secretary of State James Baker's formula for

Israel cuts water flow

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, June 17, (Reuters): Palestinians in a Jerusalem refugee camp who refuse to pay water bills said today they feared outbreaks of disease after the city council reduced "supplies" by force payment.

Shops and businesses throughout the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip were closed in response to a strike call by the Islamic fundamentalist movement Hamas, residents said. Transport was still running to let schoolchildren sit exams.

Ismail Awad, 32, director of the Shuafat refugee camp, told Reuters many homes in the camp were without running water following the council's reduction in supplies five days ago.

"We will not pay one shekel to the Israeli occupation authorities," Awad said. "We have not paid for water since the camp was established in 1966. Why should we start now?"

The municipality took the shop to force payment of 18 months in bills which the camp refuses to pay for political reasons.

Children queued with buckets in summer heat today at two communal taps. Camp residents said they had enough water only for drinking and could not flush toilets or wash regularly.

"No one has fallen ill yet, but we fear it is only a matter of time," said Awad, who gave the camp's population as 8,000.

A spokesman for the UN Palestinian relief agency said it was concerned about hygiene.

Jerusalem municipality spokeswoman Bonnie Boxer said the city council had cut supplies by about half as a punitive measure after 18 months of fruitless negotiations on payment.

"We all hope this step will bring negotiations to a close as soon as possible," she said. "Obviously we don't enjoy doing this but no body can expect to get water for free."

The Observer newspaper said that water supplies to the Palestinian village of lower Jiflik were cut last Tuesday and had not been restored by the weekend.

Women and children from the village are forced to make dawn forays to get their water from the fields of the neighbouring Israeli settlement, the paper said.

■ Israeli Abi Nathan, who has travelled the world to talk peace with Arab leaders and has been jailed for it, celebrated the 17th anniversary of his floating radio station the Voice of Peace today.

■ A ranking Palestinian official has predicted that Israel is going to launch a new war on Arab countries, and Jordan in particular, but stressed that Israel "will not get out safe from this war."

In an interview with daily "Al Seyassah" newspaper, head of the PLO political department Farouq Kaddoumi said Israel is continuing its threats to the Arab countries.

None from Arabs

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's office received many telephone calls on Sunday voicing hopes for Middle East peace but none from Arab leaders who were invited to call.

A receptionist said Shamir's new cabinet, meeting for the first time, received dozens of congratulatory calls and several callers appealed for peace, but a spokeswoman said none came from Arab states.

Israeli Justice Minister Dan Meridor invited Arab countries on Saturday to call the prime minister's official "Jerusalem 70555" to show they wanted peace.

Arab radio broadcasts also appealed after US Secretary of State James Baker publicly gave out the White House phone number—1-202-456-1414—and told Israel: "When you're serious about peace, call us."

Sfeir appeals to lay down arms

Give Vatican plan a chance

BEIRUT, June 17, (Reuters): Lebanon's Christian Maronite Patriarch appealed today to the country's fighters to lay down their arms and give a Vatican peace plan a chance.

"We call today on all those carrying arms all over Lebanon to throw them aside and to resort to reason in response to peace efforts exerted by the Vatican," Patriarch Nasrallah Boutros Sfeir told worshippers in Christian east Beirut.

Sfeir backed the Vatican plan to end inter-Christian strife and the 15-year civil war but official sources said it had failed. Fresh fighting was reported today between rival Palestinian groups in a refugee camp in southern Lebanon.

The plan was presented to Lebanon's warring groups by Papal Nuncio Pafio Pueno.

The sources said the Syrian-backed government of President Elias Hrawi had decided to reject the initiative and would inform Pueno when they meet in Muslim west Beirut tomorrow.

Under the leadership of Gen Emile Lahoud, army officers in southern Beirut are running a training programme for hundreds of enthusiastic youths recruited from across the war-ravaged country.

The young Lebanese, gathered at a poorly equipped camp near Beirut airport, received daily dawn-to-dusk intensive training. They grapple ropes attached to pine trees, jog noisily along the sand dunes

Pueno announced a ceasefire on May 26 between rival Christian forces loyal to General Michel Aoun and Samir Geagea, leader of the Lebanese Forces (LF) militia, hoping to end four months of fighting in which at least 1,000 people were killed.

But the ceasefire is breached every night along frontlines in the Christian enclave. People fear full-scale battles might flare again if a political solution is not reached soon.

The sources said the Vatican plan envisages Aoun and Geagea joining Hrawi's cabinet, which would reconsider an Arab-brokered peace accord and revise proposed political reforms.

Shiite Muslim leader Nabih Berri, a minister in Hrawi's cabinet, said Aoun or one of his representatives should join the government and fight the Arab accord from within the cabinet.

Aoun rejected the Arab agreement and refuses to recognise Hrawi. Geagea recognises Hrawi but says some aspects of the Arab peace accord should be renegotiated.

and learn to handle automatic weapons.

Senior officers close to Lahoud, 54, who was appointed commander of the Lebanese Army by the pro-Syrian cabinet, said the general was seeking to create a 3,000-strong group to "add new blood" to the regular force.

"There are 1,000 volunteers under training at several camps," said a high-ranking military official who requested anonymity. "In two months we will start training 2,000 others."

Lahoud, a highly educated Maronite Christian, was appointed to head the army by the government

of pro-Syrian President Elias Hrawi last October following an internationally backed peace agreement worked out in Taif, Saudi Arabia.

Aoun, also a Maronite, has attacked the Taif agreement for failing to ensure a speedy and complete withdrawal of Syria's 35,000 troops from Lebanon. He also has refused to recognise Hrawi as president.

Lahoud had a falling-out with Aoun when the rebel general launched a wide military campaign last year to force Syria to pull its forces, according to ranking military sources.

American criticism is unjust: Baghdad

BAGHDAD, June 17, (AP): The Iraqi government today branded criticism of its arms programme by US President George Bush's administration as "unjust and biased" and said Iraq has the right to defend itself.

The official Iraqi News Agency quoted Deputy Foreign Minister Nizar Hamdon as saying that the United States does not want Iraq and the Arabs to "live in dignity and security and defend their rights and security."

Hamdon's comments underlined a recent deterioration in relations between Iraq and the United States, mirroring a wider chill between much of the Arab world and Washington for its support of Israel.

Hamdon was commenting on a statement by John Kelly, US Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs, who said Friday that Iraq was on a collision course with the United States and the West over its drive to develop nuclear and chemical weapons.

Kelly was testifying before the US Senate's Foreign Relations Committee in Washington.

The Bush administration is under growing congressional pressure to impose sanctions on President Saddam Hussein's government in Baghdad, because of alleged human rights violations and its buildup of long-range missiles, chemical weapons and other advanced military systems.

"This claim is unjust and biased against Iraq," Hamdon declared.

He did not deny that Iraq is developing nuclear weapons, but said Kelly made his comments because "Iraq is committed to its rights and those of the Arab nation for life, security and stability."

"Iraq and the Arab nation have chosen the path of security and stability... but they also chose the path of dignity," he said.

Kelly testified that Iraq has "demonstrated a willingness to go to great lengths to develop non-conventional weapons."

But he ruled out economic sanctions against Iraq, primarily because the Bush administration does not believe they would be effective since other countries would not likely follow any US action.

Kelly noted that Washington has made its disapproval of Iraq actions known through diplomatic channels, but said: "It is important to give the government of Iraq an opportunity to demonstrate that it can act to reverse this deterioration in relations."

Western concern that Iraq is building up its military might heightened in recent weeks after British authorities intercepted Iraq-bound devices that could be used for nuclear weapons triggers.

They said the civilians from Kibbutz Eyal, less than three km (two miles) from the West Bank town of Kalkilah, had been watching for crop saboteurs when they seized the five on Thursday night.

Former Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin said yesterday that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's recent decision to end restrictions on Jewish emigration to Israel is a "historic opportunity" and a "turning point in Israel's history."

Speaking at the Anti-defamation League of B'nai B'rith's 37th annual national commission meeting in Manhattan, Rabin said Israel has not had such an opportunity in the past 40 years "to increase the Jewish community qualitatively and quantitatively," as it has now—as the result of the new Soviet policy.

The official Iranian agency, monitored in Cyprus, said the unity meeting was also attended by representatives of the Sunni Muslim Afghan rebel groups which are based in Peshawar, Pakistan.

But it gave no names of the Pakistani groups or representatives present.

Hojatolislam Hussein Ibrahim, representative of Iran's supreme leader, Ali Khamenei, told the Afghan rebel leaders, "I hope that the formation of the party will help unify all the Shiite and Sunni forces in Afghanistan," Ima said.

While Lahoud has been keen on rebuilding the army, the United States, as the army's chief arms supplier, has been hesitant to send in more military equipment.

Military sources said Syria recently delivered 5,000 Soviet-made AK-47 rifles to Lahoud's army at the general's request.

"Shortly after I was appointed, American Ambassador in Damascus Edward Djerejian sent me a message saying how can we help?" Lahoud said.

Everything in short supply

Refugees wait

AWEIL, Sudan, June 17, (AP): Aweil is a place where everything is in desperately short supply. Food, money, medicine, hope.

Especially hope, when survival can depend on whether the train from Muglad arrives.

As recently as December, 4,750 families waited in Aweil's refugee camp—about 30,000 people driven into the town by a seemingly endless civil war. Since then, despair has driven most of them back to the countryside, to the risk of death from war, lawlessness or famine.

Only a few hundred women, children and old men are in the camps now.

"Most of the families who left had been waiting for six to seven months for the relief train," said Mohamed Ali of the local relief committee. "They saw no ray of hope so they moved out to the villages, where they might find something to eat."

There is food at Muglad, a relief-distribution centre 160 miles (260 kilometres) north of Aweil at the northern terminus of a rail line. Goods shipped from Khartoum, the capital 450 miles (725 kilometres) to the northeast, are stockpiled there under Operation Lifeline-Sudan, a relief programme co-ordinated by the United Nations.

Operation Lifeline was created after the famine of 1988, which took between 250,000 and 500,000 lives and resulted from a civil war that has raged in the southern part of Africa's largest nation since 1983.

Black rebels in the south, which is predominantly Christian and animist, demand greater autonomy from the Arab, Muslim north.

The relief project was credited with preventing a recurrence of the 1988 disaster last year, but getting supplies into the area has been difficult.

Trains often are weeks or months late in making the 160-mile (260-kilometre) journey from Muglad to Aweil. Reasons range from the dilapidated track and the danger of land mines or attacks by rebels, renegade soldiers or bandits to bad weather, bureaucracy, inadequate equipment and the reluctance of crews to risk the trip.

At the end of May, a 150-car train with 1,500 tons of grain had been waiting at Muglad for six months.

"We have only 400 gallons (1,500 litres) of edible oil and nothing else," said the Rev. Akili Malweth, the local Roman Catholic bishop. "Our stores are as empty as a hungry man's stomach."

Four trains have brought supplies to Aweil since operation Lifeline began in 1989. On the return trip north, each carried thousands of people trying to escape and survive.

"Those who could not move out of the town are the poor, the old, the tuberculosis victims and the children," said Mohammed Ali, who also is the local representative of the Sudanese Commission on Relief and Rehabilitation.

Nearly all those remaining are women, children and old men. They are housed in two makeshift camps, and few have money to buy anything.

One camp has nine large huts that accommodate 20 families each, and the other in the town's school building, Aino Kolong, Aweil's education commissioner, said those who lived in the school cleaned it each morning before classes began.

The women, and many of the children, try to find work.

Refugee women till people's gardens and carry firewood and water from the centre of town to outlying houses in Aweil, which has a normal population of 11,000.

"Women here work in all sorts of jobs," said Majak Kharwaja, a resident of the town. "Even building houses, which traditionally has been men's job, is now being done by women."

Even if the refugee women can find work, they seldom make enough money to buy food.

A cup of tea costs 10 Sudanese pounds, nearly 85 cents, double the daily wage for the best-paying jobs available.

"They cannot afford to buy one sack of sorghum at the unimaginable price of 900 pounds," or \$75, for the 80-kilogramme (40-kilogramme) bag, Kolong said.

UK, Syria in secret talks

Bid to restore ties

LONDON, June 17, (Reuters): Syrian and British officials have met secretly in New York to discuss possible restoration of diplomatic ties cut more than three years ago after London accused Damascus of links with terrorists.

British Foreign Secretary Dr. Samual Deng said: "After 10 to 12 hours we discovered that the child has vanished," taken to a traditional healer by its mother.

"Most of those children die, he said.

The Observer newspaper said the meeting was first proposed by Britain a month ago and is expected to be followed by further high-level meetings.

Britain, is hoping Damascus will use its influence with Tehran and Lebanon's pro-Iranian groups to speed the release of the UK hostages "as a first step to the possible re-establishment of relations," the paper added.

The newspaper said British overtures towards Damascus were linked to London's awareness of Syria's role in the recent release of an American hostage held by pro-Iranian kidnappers in Lebanon.

It said some British parliamentarians met in London last week with senior members of the Syrian community at a reception hosted by a Syrian businessman.

12,470 new residence permits issued in May

21,700 visit visas

THE Immigration Department at the Interior Ministry issued last month 12,470 new residence permits to expatriates and cancelled at the same time 9,817 residences. In a press release issued by the public relations department at the ministry it was announced that the four immigration departments in the various governorates also renewed over 30,000 residences.

Among other applications the departments completed during the month of May was transferring the sponsorship of 6,426 labourers, issuing 1,702 temporary residences, opening 1,661 files for new sponsors and also issued 9,822 work permits.

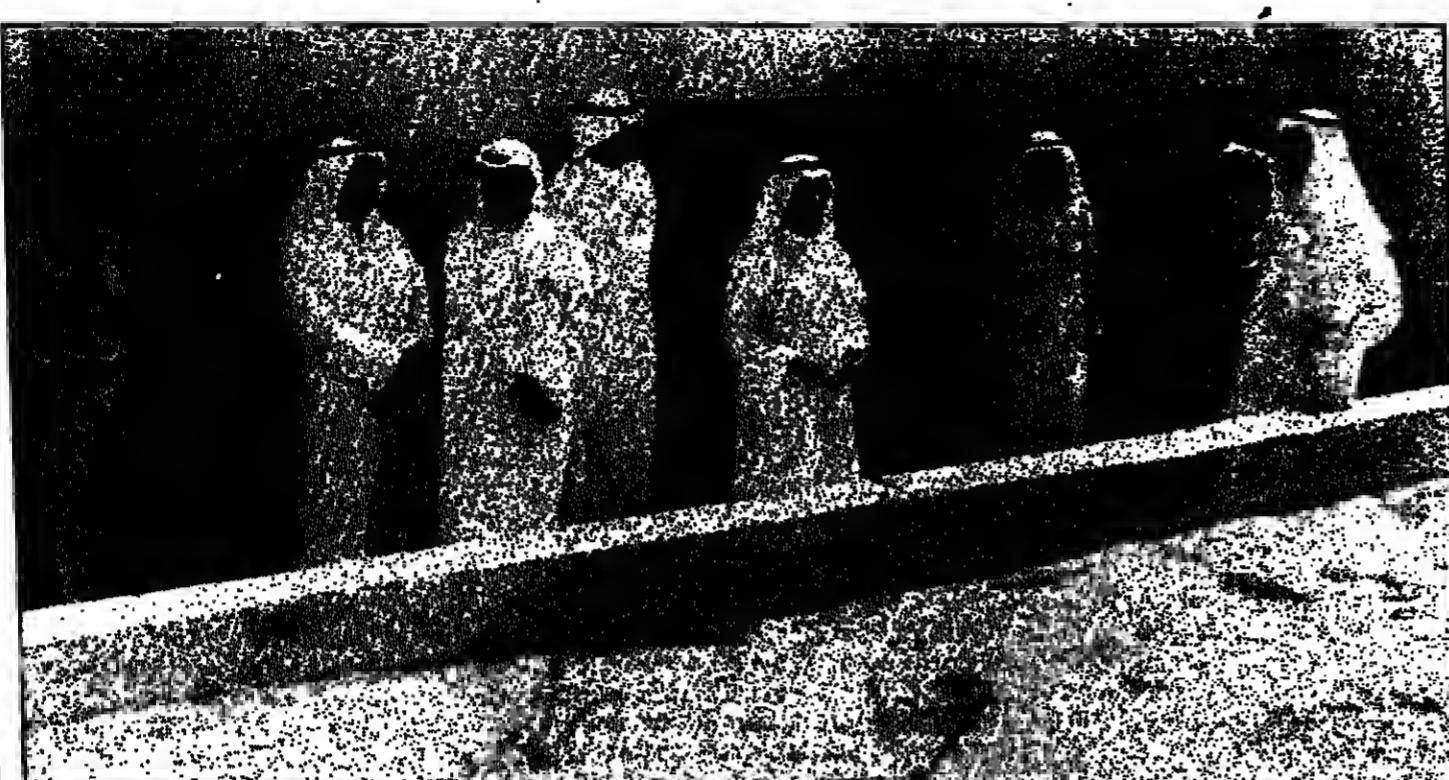
The release added that of the work permits issued, the majority went to maids

and domestics with 7,951 followed by labourers in the private sector with 1,304 permits, 742 family permits and 95 government work permits.

Visit visas

The four governorates also issued over 21,700 visit visas, a remarkable increase over previous months. Most of these were

family visit visas, about 12,700, and the remaining were business visas, over 9,000. The immigration department also issued 1,246 permits allowing expatriates to stay for over six months outside Kuwait. Expatriates who stay for over six months outside Kuwait without giving a good reason or without obtaining prior permission, will get their residences cancelled.

**80th Infantry visited**

Upon directives from the Minister of Defence, Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Jaber, Sheikh Sabah Al Nasser visited the 80th Mechanical Infantry of the Kuwait Army. Sheikh Sabah was escorted by the director of the Engineering Affairs Department, Fahad Al Jaleel.

Upon their arrival at the infantry unit, they were received by the

director of the infantry operation Col Fahad Al Mhanna and a number of army officers.

After the visit, Sheikh Sabah held a meeting with all workers at northern centres in the country.

Merchants accuse co-op union of gross malpractice

Pricing committee to reign

THE co-operative movement in Kuwait particularly co-operative societies and the Consumer Co-operative Societies Union was the focus of accusations directed by many merchants and food manufacturers during the fourth meeting which was held recently. The continuous control over the union by the prices committee had curtailed their malpractices, sources said.

The fourth diwaniya meeting was attended by over 70 foodstuff companies representing 90 per cent of merchants in the local market. They jointly demanded more freedom from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry the only authority representing the co-operative movement in the country. They said that freedom of trade will result in stronger competition in the market.

One of the merchants at the meeting indicated that the availability of goods in the market will ensure a more stable price in the market adding that competition is evidently to the benefit of consumers, merchants and manufacturers and will also be of greater interest to the co-operative movement in the country.

Relations

Head of the Foodstuff Merchants and Manufacturers Union, Abdullah Al Bajian pointed out that every effort has been exerted by the committee members towards strengthening relations with Kuwait Municipality and the Consumers Co-operative Societies Union.

He stated that a meeting was held with the head of the union who extended great understanding to all problems. He indicated a committee formed by the union will study the possibility of forming a new pricing committee at the union.

He said that they hope that the study will address the interest of union members regarding the free of charge goods issue. The union head promised to take strong measures to prevent this phenomenon.

Pricing

Bajian pointed out that communications were carried out with the Merchants Union and the Commerce and Industry Chamber regarding a letter raised to the governor of Kuwait Central Bank in order to release restrictions imposed by co-operative societies upon merchants and food producers. The letter suggested that measures should be taken to bring back freedom to merchants and food companies in Kuwait.

Meanwhile, the chairman of the pricing committee at Kuwait's Co-operative Societies Union, Fahd

Al Mutawa was quoted as saying that all consumer goods must be priced by the committee.

Speaking to a local daily, the official said that all merchants will be called upon to submit evidence to prove the cost of the goods on the basis of which the committee will unify the prices of such commodities at all co-operatives.

This step is intended to curtail abnormal profits presently being made by the co-operative societies. This will put an end to the practice of the past which permitted co-operative societies to unilaterally define the prices of consumer goods in supermarkets.

This move has received unanimous backing of the public and this has prompted the union to currently undertake the possibility of conducting collective purchasing deals on behalf of the co-operative societies. This will facilitate obtaining quality goods at optimum prices and discontinue the malpractice of complementary goods which negatively affects both co-operative societies and the consumers.

The union obtains prices of commodities from world-wide sources and concludes contracts with suppliers valid for a period of one year.

Committee

Meanwhile, the official said that the union had recently set up a committee entitled "Prices Development Committee" which groups representatives from the union, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Kuwait University and a number of general managers at co-ops.

The committee's functions are to upgrade and modernise the policy of the pricing committee and to present its report to the board of directors of the union within one month. The report will include measures to be followed by the pricing committee which should be based on ensuring consumer pricing.

The official said that the union is currently involved in undertaking a comprehensive study to overcome obstacles impeding the co-operative march in the country. He added that the committee had recently requested co-operative societies to abide by the resolutions and circulars adopted by the union.

The dramatic changes that took place in socialist countries coupled with the withdrawals of subsidies on some consumer goods in some East European countries had led to the current price hike and the pricing committee at the union could not be held accountable for this increase, Mntawa said.

Information discussions

MUSCAT, June 17, (Kuwa): Egyptian, Omani and Bahraini ministers of information discussed means of benefiting from the Arab satellite in the interest of the Arab nation and co-operation between their three countries in the information field.

This came during the meeting of the three ministers, Egypt's Saifat Al Sharif, Oman's Abdul Aziz Al Rawas and Bahrain's Tarek Al Mutawa.

The three officials also agreed on forming a working group to prepare a joint paper on developments in the field of television on-air transmission.

The paper, they agreed, will be submitted to the next Arab information ministers' meeting.

The Egyptian minister arrived in Oman on Saturday as part of a tour that includes Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates.

He said that his visit to Oman comes at the invitation of his Omani counterpart and within the framework of the convocation of the joint information committee between the two countries.

Recreational facilities too expensive: citizens

A NUMBER of citizens interviewed by a local daily to speak about the quality of services offered by the Touristic Enterprises Company said that the charges of company utilities are very high and require reconsideration. They added that the objective of establishing these facilities and services should be directed towards serving citizens instead of focussing on securing large profits. They hoped that officials at the Entertainment City, Doha cancel the comprehensive ticket system due to the fact that it has many negative sides. Other citizens stressed that in order to obtain a reservation at Kharan chalets, which are expensive, they need "wasta."

They added that these services are under the required level regarding cleanliness and maintenance. They demanded establishing further touristic projects similar to the Entertainment City at other governorates particularly Ahmadi and Jabra. They stressed on the importance of developing innovation in the tourist industry.

On the other hand, they praised touristic utilities, particularly the Entertainment City. They indicated that the touristic industry in Kuwait is constantly developing and prospering during the past few years.

Mansour Ali said that the tourism company provides citizens with good services via its utilities which are spread all over the country. He particularly praised the Entertainment City in Doha which has played a

great recreational role. He hoped that officials will reconsider establishing more than one entertainment city at most Kuwait governorates.

Umm Salam said utilities were very expensive particularly the price of the comprehensive ticket for those accompanying their families at the Entertainment City. She hoped that the company will cancel this system due to the fact that some may be interested in entering the entertainment city without using any of the games available there.

She added that such high prices has lowered public interest towards using such available facilities particularly Kharan chalets. She called upon officials to lower the prices of these utilities at least during the summer season for those who are unable to travel abroad.

Al Fahad stated that tourism in Kuwait features constant development but he added that still the touristic industry in Kuwait requires developments and more inventions. He gave an example on the entertainment city indicating that games over there have not been changed since its establishment.

Hamad Al Otaibi stressed the importance of recreation in our contemporary lives. He added that the company should fully make use of all Kuwaiti islands particularly Failaka which so far has not been put to an ideal use.

Ibrahim Bouri stated that most youths face the problem of not being allowed to enter recreational utilities. He added that most youths feel unwanted at such utilities.

Teachers angry with shortened vacations

Students also affected

TEACHERS at the Ministry of Education strongly slammed the officials for extending the scholastic year this year for over two weeks. Interviewed by the magazine of the Kuwaiti Teachers Association "Al Mualem" (The Teacher), a number of teachers blamed the ministry for undermining their rights of having a full summer vacation of three months. The Ministry of Education has for the first time this year extended the duration of the scholastic year by over 2 weeks. Teachers of primary schools and kindergartens went on summer vacation on June 13, teachers of intermediate schools start their vacation on June 20 while secondary teachers will have to wait till June 28 to begin their summer holidays. In previous years, all government teachers summer vacations started before June 10.

Deprivation

Most years, the summer vacation started in the first few days of June and teachers resumed work in the beginning of September. This year, though the vacation started over two weeks late, teachers are required to resume duty on September 1, thus cutting down the summer vacation from the customary 3 months to just about 2 months.

Teachers said that the extension of the scholastic year has resulted in many adverse effects on both teachers and students. Psychological pressure and working under difficult conditions in hot weather made teachers feel deprived of some of their legitimate rights. The teachers expressed regret that the ministry has been looking at the teaching job exactly like any other job.

"We have been looked at by ministry officials as simple employees" teachers said in anger. The extension of the scholastic year was linked to the airconditioning of the schools. The airconditioning project was completed in primary schools last year and is going to be completed in intermediate and secondary school this year. Teachers said that airconditioning of schools is not a reason to extend the academic year because only classrooms are airconditioned and the temperatures during the month of June begin soaring. This will be also against the interests of students as well, the teachers stressed.

Advantage

Principals of schools complained that extension of the academic year greatly affects the examination programmes with

the view that many Kuwaiti teachers go for their annual military recruitment. The teachers said that although the academic year has been extended the syllabus has remained the same. So, the teachers said, the cause of extending the year was not to complete an "uncompleted" syllabus or to increase illustrations for students. They added that the Ministry of Education has been reducing the summer vacation gradually year after year and now it has become only 2 months. Previously the summer vacations were for 3 months. The teachers emphasised that the work nature of teachers differs greatly from the rest of the government employees and their only benefits were the three months summer holidays they were getting. Now even this benefit has been taken away. The teachers warned that if the ministry policy continues this way, many teachers, particularly Kuwaitis will opt out of this profession.

The teachers said that studying under the scorching heat of the sun in the desert is harmful for students even if the classes are air-conditioned. Some teachers said that the productivity of teachers will be greatly affected alongwith the performance of students in their examinations.

**Paaet training course**

A proctorship training course, organised by the Vocational Development Centre of Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (Paaet), was concluded here yesterday.

The conclusion ceremony was attended by the director-general of the authority Dr Abdurahman Al Muallian and the director of the centre Dr Ahmed Bu Zabab.

The training course was attended by 18 participants from the teaching staff of Paaet and its centres.

Pictures shows Muallian with the graduates.

Collins leaves for Cairo

KUWAIT, June 17, (Kuwa): Irish Foreign Minister and current EEC chairman, Gerard Collins, left here today heading for Cairo on a one-day official visit.

During his two-day stay here, Collins met with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah.

Collins also held talks with Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Oil Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al Athbi and Minister of Higher Education Dr Ali Al Shamani.

Talks between Collins and the officials centred on bilateral relations, the Arab-European dialogue, Gulf-European dialogue, the Middle East problem and the Palestinian question.

The meeting which will be held tomorrow, will discuss several points on its agenda including ways of bolstering cultural co-operation among the six states of the Gulf Co-operation Council.

Dr Omar is accompanied by a delegation comprising director of Culture and Arts Department at the council Abdellaziz Al Surai'e and head of the Foreign Cultural Relations Mansour Al Shallabi.

The agency said that Khalifa, who is visiting Paris at the invitation of his French counterpart Jean Pierre Chevenement, is to discuss means of enhancing co-operation between the two countries especially in military fields.

It said that a number of senior army officers will accompany Sheikh Khalifa on his visit, duration of which was not announced.

Saudi in Europe

MUSCAT, June 17, (Kuwa): Secretary-general of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters in Kuwait Dr Farouk Al Omar arrived here yesterday to represent Kuwait at the third meeting for Gulf ministers responsible for cultural affairs.

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GCC culture meeting

MUSCAT, June 17, (Kuwa): Secretary-general of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters in Kuwait Dr Farouk Al Omar arrived here yesterday to represent Kuwait at the third meeting for Gulf ministers responsible for cultural affairs.

The meeting which will be held tomorrow, will discuss several points on its agenda including ways of bolstering cultural co-operation among the six states of the Gulf Co-operation Council.

Dr Omar is accompanied by a delegation comprising director of Culture and Arts Department at the council Abdellaziz Al Surai'e and head of the Foreign Cultural Relations Mansour Al Shallabi.

The agency said that Khalifa, who is visiting Paris at the invitation of his French counterpart Jean Pierre Chevenement, is to discuss means of enhancing co-operation between the two countries especially in military fields.

It said that a number of senior army officers will accompany Sheikh Khalifa on his visit, duration of which was not announced.

Emirates launches flight to Singapore

SINGAPORE, June 17, (Kuwa): Emirates Airlines of the United Arab Emirates today launched its inaugural service to Singapore when its flight EK648 touched down at Changi International Airport here.

The Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore announced that Emirates will operate two weekly services to Singapore on the Dubai-Colombo-Singapore route, using A310-300 aircraft.

The flights will arrive here on Sundays and Thursdays at 4.35 pm and depart on the same day at 11.55 pm.

Emirates is the third scheduled airline company from the Middle East to fly to Singapore. Saudi Arabia and Jordan are the other two.

Singapore and the UAE concluded an air services agreement on March 17, 1987. The republic now has agreements with 11 countries in the Middle East.

Apart from the UAE, the others are Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the Yemen Republic.

The latest air service means that Singapore is now linked by scheduled airlines to 110 cities through 54 countries through 1,786 weekly flights.

Warning

THE Ministry of Interior has warned parents from allowing their children to sell paper tissues and other articles at traffic lights on major crossroads. In a press release issued yesterday the ministry said that these kids endanger their lives and the safety of drivers by selling various articles on traffic lights. The ministry described such behaviour as "uncivilised" and warned that it will subject the children to legal action.

Subhi in Qatar

MUSCAT, June 17, (Kuwa): Secretary-general of the conferences, higher committee Ibrahim Hamoud Al Subhi, left for Qatar yesterday to deliver a message from Sultan Qaboos Bin Saeed of Oman to Qatar's Crown Prince and Minister of Defence Sheikh Hamed Bin Khalifa Al Thani concerning bilateral relations.

Subhi told the official Omani News Agency that the message comes in the framework of continuous co-operation and negotiations between the two countries.

He added that the message also deals with bilateral issues of common interest.

Kuwaiti-Dutch investment protection talks under way

Trade increases considerably

KUWAIT, June 17, (Kuna): Dutch Ambassador to Kuwait Josephus Veling has praised trade and economic relations between Kuwait and the Netherlands, pointing out to the sizable trade exchange between the two countries.

In an interview with a local daily Ambassador Veling spoke of the large

scale Kuwaiti investments in his country through the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), which controls five per cent of fuel distribution in Holland. There are 98 gas stations all over the Netherlands, he added.

He further said that Kuwaiti and Dutch authorities are currently holding talks on

drafting an agreement toward protecting investments and another on preventing double taxation, expected to be concluded soon.

On bilateral trade exchange, the Dutch ambassador indicated that the size of trade exchange between the two countries rose remarkably last year, noting that the trade

balance tips in favour of Kuwait, which exported nine times as much as it imported from the Netherlands.

He affirmed that the recent changes in Eastern Europe and the European unified market in 1992 will further strengthen Europe's trade relations with Kuwait and the rest of the Gulf states.

Legal Clinic

Should you have a legal, labour-related or similar problem, write to: Legal Clinic, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023, Safat, Kuwait, or fax your questions on Fax No. 4847495. Our Kuwaiti lawyer, Khaled Taher, replies to readers' queries.

1 AM a permanent part-time employee, working in a shop for the last one year. Since I am employed on visa No. 18, am I entitled to get annual leave, sick leave and maternity leave?

S.R. YOU are entitled to take annual leave. You are eligible to maternity leave if you are pregnant and you can take sick leave if you actually need it.

1 WILL be completing three years on Sept 11, 1990. My residence expires on Oct 3, 1990. I will complete three years service and would like to transfer my residence. Will it effect the three years residence rules as the duration does not cover exactly three years.

H. Ali YOUR query is not clear. If you are talking about the expiry of the residence itself, it doesn't matter as you say you would have completed three years service. If you are referring to the contract, then this depends on that document and you must follow it.

WE are a group of British engineers working for a British company which has a contract with the same ministry for over 20 years. Our question is in three parts:

1. Are we entitled to gratuity payments at the end of our contracts? Our written contract makes no mention of it.

2. If Kuwait public holidays fall during our leave period, do they count as annual leave?

3. If Friday fall during our period of leave, are they part of annual leave?

Our contracts do not mention anything about this or public holidays.

The contract our company has with the ministry states that employment conditions shall be in accordance with Kuwaiti Labour Law.

Engineering

1. If the ministry contract states that you are covered by the Kuwaiti Labour Law,

you are entitled to ask for gratuity in accordance with Kuwaiti Labour Law.

Anything that is mentioned in the contract will be covered by the Kuwaiti Labour Law.

2. Official holidays won't be considered as a part of annual leave because you are entitled to get these by the law. And the duration of the leave will be taken from the working days.

3. The reply to your third question depends on the type of contract you have. If you could send me a copy of the contract, I'll be able to give you the right answer. However, generally, Fridays or rest days are excluded from annual leave.

4. I CAME to Kuwait in January 1987 on visa No. 18. I recently read a news item which said that a residence can be transferred without the sponsor's letter. Is this possible?

Jerard IF the old sponsor insists on not issuing the release paper, you can put up your case before the labour officer, who has the power to transfer the residence in case the employer does not give his agreement in writing.

5. I AM entitled to one month annual leave, according to my contract. I would like to know:

1. Does one month mean 26 days or 30 days or 31 days? Our company says it means 26 days.

2. In 1989, I took leave from June 1 to July 1. How will the leave salary be calculated.

D.R. Patel 1. THIS depends on the contract. If it says one month, it may include Fridays. If you calculate the payment, according to the number of days, it must be divided by 26, but the annual leave would be one month.

2. If you worked during the month of March (which had 31 days), you received one month's salary — excluding rest days, i.e. Fridays. (In the same manner) annual leave would be calculated as

one month, including Fridays. If you go through your contract, it would be clearer what your contract states. If you want a vacation of 31 days, then take leave during a month which has 31 days, which would be equal to one month. But even if they (the company) said 26 days, they are generally they refer to calculating payment (according to) 26 days.

2. It will be calculated as one month's salary.

1 WORKED for a company from 1988 to August 1989. My services were terminated by the company but they have not paid my indemnity or overtime, which had been promised to me. I have tried to contact the company, but they simply do not respond. Please advise. (Query edited)

P. Abraham

YOU must file a case immediately through the Social Affairs Ministry; any claim made after a year of the event would take away the right to make claims. You must also try to get a release, to legalise your position, and give the name of the new sponsor giving to the ministry to seek a transfer of residence at the time you ask for indemnity and overtime.

I CAME to Kuwait in 1986 on visa No. 18 to work as a waiter for a catering company. The contract of my former company with the ministry expired in 1987. I was given a release to work for the company which took over the job. I have an unlimited period contract. I have been working for the same company since 1987. I would like to find another job as I have completed three years with the present employer. Will I be given a release?

A.W.M.N. 1. According to social affairs resolution article 16, you have the right to ask for a release and seek a transfer of residence with the knowledge of the present employer and the acceptance of the Ministry of Social Affairs.

2. Does one month mean 26 days or 30 days or 31 days? Our company says it means 26 days.

3. In 1989, I took leave from June 1 to July 1. How will the leave salary be calculated.

D.R. Patel

1. THIS depends on the contract. If it says one month, it may include Fridays. If you calculate the payment, according to the number of days, it must be divided by 26, but the annual leave would be one month.

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Ban on cooked food resumes

THE director of the public relations and information department at the Directorate General for Civil Aviation (DGCA) Badr Al Matar has said that with the new travel season, a ban on certain types of food becomes effective, in line with an official bulletin released by the Ministry of Public Health.

He told a local daily that foods on the ban-list include homemade dishes, such as pastries, cakes, dairy products, uncooked salted fish, and types of drinks and foods that have not been bottled automatically, such as mineral water, leafy vegetable, fresh figs and others.

He pointed out that special coordination will be employed between the directorate, the customs Department, Kuwait Municipality and KAC to see to it that none of the items on the ban-list are allowed into the country.

He added that there are other items which will not be admitted into the passenger cabin, such as compressed lighter gas (Aerosol), instruments made of sharp metal, such as scissors, blades, and sharp-edged children's toys.

He added that the Public Health Ministry is trying hard to ensure that no infectious diseases find their way into Kuwait from infected areas. Measures taken include instructions, health arrangements and administration of vaccines for passengers arriving into the country from the different exits, where special health cards are distributed with instructions to check into relevant health centres within 72 hours of the date of arrival.

He commented on instances of lost luggage, stressing the need to report any lost items to the airport lost and found section where the person collects a receipt for his property to come and collect it when the item has been located.

He advised passengers not to carry with them excessive amounts of luggage which weighed over 40 kg, which would slow down the conveyor belts. Other problems facing airport officials included too many people who come to see off passengers which creates unnecessary crowds or results in children playing around.

Premier receives

KUWAIT, June 17, (Kuna): HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdulla Al Salem Al Sabah yesterday received in audience, at Bayan Palace, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber.

HH also received Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmad, Finance Minister Jassim Mohammed Al Khorafi, State Minister for Housing Affairs Nasser Abdulla Al Roudhan, Minister of Electricity and Water Dr Homoud Abdulla Al Rqobah, Minister of Public Health Dr Abdul Razaq Yousif Al Abdul Razaq, Planning Minister Dr Abdul Razaq Yousif Al Rifa'i.

The result of science group of Fahad bin Ali branch is 95 per cent and general group is 50 per cent.

A one grade; A grade: 20; B grade: 30; C grade: 29; D grade: 10.

From the courts

Pakistan School and College results



Fouzia Shaukat



Chanda Isaq



Rubina Habib



Shumaila Ghulam Nabi
Habib got first position at Kuwait centre with 649 marks and Shumaila Ghulam Nabi got second position with 623 marks in Pakistan School and College Kuwait.



Caesar Allah Ditta
are in the merit list of FBISE.
The result of science group of Fahad bin Ali branch is 95 per cent and general group is 50 per cent.

A one grade; A grade: 20; B grade: 30; C grade: 29; D grade: 10.

Science club workshop administrators reshuffled

THE secretary-general of the Kuwait Science Club Dawood Al Ahmad has said that the board of directors has reshuffled the administrative body for the household workshops amateurs association and assigned a number of the committees to develop special activities, such as the holding of art exhibitions for people's handwork.

He told a local daily that the purpose of supporting this association is to provide youth with ample chance to cultivate and refine their skills in simple handwork, which will train youths to develop self-reliance. Further, the fulfillment of this objective will save a lot of money spent on importing such items.

He said that the club offers youth good chances to utilise their leisure times in rewarding activities, which are aimed at scientifically utilising energy in productive channels.

He said that the government extends substantial support for the club and has of late sponsored the building of a giant production workshop which will help members attain high levels of competence.

Five new schools soon

ASSISTANT Undersecretary for Governorate Education Affairs at the Ministry of Education, Suad Al Refai has announced that the ministry will open five course system schools for the next academic year.

In an interview with a local daily, she pointed out that awareness programmes organised by course system schools for students at the Fourth Intermediate Grade include characteristics and objectives of the system. She added that the number of students at course system schools is constantly increasing every year and that the current total number of students at course system schools matches the ministry capabilities and capacity of each school.

She pointed out that there are more Kuwaitis interested in the course system than the conventional system.

Maid, driver get 6 months for illicit sex

THE Criminal Court sentenced a maid and a driver working in the same house to six months imprisonment each for having illicit sex. The court also ordered their deportation from the country. The court heard that the employer's wife got up one morning and needed her maid. As she didn't find her, she started searching for her. After a long search she found her sleeping with the driver in her room. In the court, the two accused confessed to having illicit sex and said they were unmarried and over 21 years old. They said that they made love with the full consent of both. For that the court sentenced them to 6 months imprisonment each and ordered their deportation from Kuwait.

THE Criminal Court sentenced a man to 2 years imprisonment with hard labour and fined him a total of KD35,000 for trading in heroin. The court ordered his deportation from the country. The court was told that as the man failed to secure a good job in Kuwait, he took his car and went back to his country. There, he succeeded in buying a kilogramme of heroin for KD2,000 only. He returned to Kuwait and managed to smuggle the narcotics. After some time, he started searching for a buyer and informed one man that he wanted to sell the heroin for KD75,000. The man promised him half uniformly for him, turned out to be a police informer. The police then arranged a trap for the

man and asked the secret informer to tell him that the buyer was ready. The accused insisted on getting the whole amount together. Police money was delivered to him and he was immediately arrested with the marked notes. The man confessed the charges and asked for mercy. The court then sentenced him to 15 years imprisonment with hard labour, ordered his deportation, fined him KD15,000 and another fine of KD20,000 as custom charges.

THE Court of Misdeanourants acquitted four men of the charges of being responsible for the poisoning of 20 school students after eating egg sandwiches from the school canteen. The four accused are two employees from a food supplies company which supplied the sandwiches, in addition to the canteen supervisor and a school driver. The court said that no clear evidence has been supplied to prove that any of the accused was responsible. The company canteens and vehicles were examined and nothing wrong was found. The school canteen and the vendors were also examined and it was reported that the temperature of the canteen was slightly

high. But the court stressed that there was no evidence that any of the accused was responsible for the poisoning. For that the court acquitted them.

■ A SHEPHERD identified as Ali Akeel A. — a Bangladeshi national was found dead at the sheep shed of Mejaad M. a Kuwaiti national.

The owner of the shed informed the Waifa Police Station that he had found the person hanging by his neck from the ceiling of the shed and the cause of death was attributed by him to suicide.

The body has been referred to authorities for further investigations.

■ THREE defendants were found guilty by Kuwait's Court of Criminals and were sentenced to 42 months in jail each to be followed by deportation from the country, a local daily reported.

It added that the culprits identified as Jaouni, Josi Toukaon and Maria Domingo had transferred the house of the first defendant Jaouni into a plant for distilling liquor and were selling each bottle at KD5.

Amiri decree defines councillors' salaries

Budget allocated

AN AMIRI decree has been issued defining remunerations for the members of the elected National Council consisting of five articles.

Under Article I, the chairman of the council, his deputy and members receive a monthly salary payable at the outset of each month.

Under this article, each of the council chairman or his deputy and members will have the right to claim their remuneration from the date on which the council was elected and expires on the same date mentioned in the previous clause regarding the member's remuneration.

Under Article II: The expenditures in the budget allocated from the National Council will be estimated for the period from April 22 up to June 30.

Article III: The necessary financial allocations for the total amount of the remunerations stated in this decree will be included on an annual basis into the council's budget.

Article IV: No combination will be possible between the council member and any other remuneration or salary deducted from the public treasury.

Article V: All ministers will implement this law, each in his own capacity, will take effect from the date on which the council holds its first session and

it will appear in the official gazette.

Another decree has been issued allocating a budget for the National Council for the period from April 22 up to June 30.

Article I: The expenditures in

the budget allocated from the National Council will be estimated for the period from April 22 up to June 30 at KD500,000, which will be deducted from the ministries' budget, section 8 part 2 (Miscellaneous Expenditure and Transferable Payments) for the current fiscal year.

Article II: The presence of an allocation approved for a specific purpose in the list of estimated expenditures will not lead to an exemption from the accurate observance of the provisions of the different laws, by-laws, decision and circulars relating to the use of this allocation.

Article III: All ministers, each in his own capacity, will implement this law which will appear in the official gazette and has become effective as of April 22, 1990.



A lady was hospitalised for injuries she sustained when her car collided with another. There were 8 traffic accidents reported in the country yesterday, 2 of which took place in Hawalli, 3 in Ahmadi and 3 in Jahra.

Kuwaiti intellectual mourned

KUWAIT, June 17, (Kuna): State Minister for Cabinet Affairs, head of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters Rashed Al Rashed mourned today one of Kuwait's prominent intellectuals Ahmed Mishari Al Adwani who passed away yesterday.

Adwani, 67, has achieved many accomplishments

GOD bears with the wicked, but not forever—*Miguel de Cervantes, Spanish writer (1547-1616)*.

Workers pose dilemma

Romanian govt faces difficulty

BUCHAREST, (AP): Vasile, a chief engineer at the state-run Republica pipe factory, is watching his step these days.

He would like to crack down on his workers, who have been slacking off since the overthrow of communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu last December.

But he doesn't dare.

"If I punished them for not working hard, tomorrow they would ask me to leave the factory," he said, pointing to a group of workers smoking at an outdoor picnic table.

Vasile's dilemma is one piece of a problem faced by Romania's newly elected government. It has inherited one of Eastern Europe's most inefficient economies. But it cannot radically change the system without risking the loss of a key group of supporters—blue-collar workers.

Benefited

Such workers, who make up about 40 per cent of Romania's labour force, have benefited greatly from the anti-communist uprising.

Caught up in the revolutionary fervour last December, they held strikes at factories across the country to force the ouster of top communist managers. Then, in an exhilarating taste of freedom, they elected their new bosses.

"Of course they are nicer to us," said Alexandru, 25, a laminator at the Republica plant, who like others gave only his first name. "Because if they aren't, we might fire them."

The National Salvation Front, which took power after the revolution, quickly solidified its support by reaching out to blue-collar workers.

It increased pay and vacation time and established a five-day work week, instead of the six- or seven-day week common under Ceausescu. In the recent election campaign, it promised to move gradually toward a free-market economy and to avoid the painful unemployment expected in other East European countries.

The Front and its presidential candidate, Ion Iliescu, were rewarded with big wins in the May 20 elections.

Now they have to figure out how to make their industry more competitive without losing their legitimacy with workers.

"It is a challenging job," admits Eugen Dijmarescu, a economic adviser to the interim government who is expected to emerge as a key planner in the new administration.

Under communist rule, Romania was converted from an agricultural to an industrial nation. Its economy has suffered problems typical of Eastern European nations: low-quality production, an overemphasis on unprofitable heavy industries and inefficiency due to central planning.

Obsolete

But its equipment is even more obsolete than its neighbours' since Ceausescu slashed imports in the past decade to pay off the country's foreign debt.

Since the revolution, the economy has deteriorated further. The hard-currency trade balance has plunged from a \$2.5 billion surplus in 1989 to a deficit of \$400 million by April, according to government figures. The reason is government imports of consumer goods.

Meanwhile, industrial production is down nearly 20 per cent for the first four months of 1990 compared with the same period last year, government figures say.

This drop is due to several factors, including the closing of some unprofitable plants and the reallocation of resources such as electricity from factories to homes.

Factory managers say it is also due to workers' feeling free of past constraints to work.

"This is how they view democracy," commented Vasile. "Everyone does what he wants but still gets full pay."

Stuart Dunley, senior executive of the English firm Rindalbourne Ltd, which buys textiles from a dozen Romanian factories, noted many plants had eliminated the unpopular overnight shift since the revolution.

Working hours

Combined with the cut in working hours, "the effect on production is rather dramatic," he said.

Dijmarescu, the economic adviser to the government, said the new government would likely end some of the salary benefits it recently had given workers.

He said the government planned to form stock-issuing companies in all industries except electricity, gas production, oil and railways. The shares initially will be owned by the government but will gradually be sold to private investors, he said. He added that Romania would also likely borrow money from abroad.

The managing boards of factories will be allowed to set wages and the level of private ownership, he said. If they cannot make a profit, they will be allowed to go bankrupt.

"If you put the companies in such a position, they (workers) will be interested in making changes," he said.

Some say the Front might never carry out its privatization plan because it is divided between young technocrats who favour broad economic changes and former communists who oppose them. There is also the added resistance of blue-collar workers.

At the Republica pipe plant, the workers taking a coffee break said they were not worried about economic change.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1757 — Holy Roman Empire forces defeat Prussia's King Frederick II at Kolin, Czechoslovakia, and he loses 13,000 of his 33,000 troops.

1779 — French forces take St. Vincent in West Indies.

1812 — United States declares war against Britain.

1815 — British under Duke of Wellington, and Prussians under Gerhard von Blucher defeat France's Napoleon Bonaparte at Waterloo.

1823 — King John VI annuls Portuguese constitution of 1822 after upholding against his rule and the loss of Brazil.

1881 — Germany, Austria and Russia sign secret alliance, "Three Emperors' League," for three years.

1940 — Germans capture French port of Cherbourg in World War II.

1952 — British plan for Central African federation is announced.

1953 — Egypt is proclaimed a republic with Gen. M. Naguib as president; South Korea releases 26,000 non-communist North Korean prisoners.

1965 — Air Vice-Marshal Nguyen Cao Ky assumes office as premier of South Vietnam and vows to spur war against Viet Cong.

1968 — Britain's House of Lords rejects Labour government's sanctions against Rhodesia.

1975 — Slayer of Saudi Arabia's King Faisal is publicly beheaded in front of government palace in Riyadh.

1985 — US space shuttle discovery, with Saudi Arabian prince aboard as passenger, launches a satellite for Arab world.

1987 — Israel condemns decision by Pope John Paul II to grant audience to Austria's President Kurt Waldheim.

1988 — Turkey's Premier Turgut Ozal is wounded slightly by gunmen as he addresses party convention in Ankara.

1989 — Afghan airliner crashes in Iran after gunmen seize plane and struggle with the pilot.

Award winners

SIR: Though the plays, presented at the Indian Arts Circle did not represent the best in each language, many of them were very good and the Indian community in Kuwait is very much obliged to the organisers and Indian Arts Circle for their encouragement given to the theatre.

Selecting the award winners is the most difficult part of any competition, especially when it is of aesthetic importance. Making honest decisions are as important as convincing the public of the fairness of the decisions. It was unfortunate that the organisers did not learn from last year's mistakes.

It is possible that each member of the jury evaluate the dramas, acting talent and the technical aspects of the plays differently. But that does not make a result which is far from truth. Like last year, this year too, the members of the jury have been taken for a ride by the organisers and one wonders how any man of self-respect would stand such manipulation at the hands of the organisers.

Many, who have sat through the plays will disagree with the announced result, the more with the best actress and best actor awards.

Awarding the actress, who had a mediocre role to perform with best actress title was an insult to the lady herself, especially when glaring examples of good performances are like that of the old woman in "Kothu."

Actors can be of similar calibre, but two actors sharing an award is something unheard of. Both Madhu and V.J. Antony are good actors, no doubt. But the award was for the role they performed! Anyone who saw both the plays would agree that the graveyard keeper of Madhu was no better than the shadow of the old man in "Kothu." If the organisers wanted to reward their beloved, they should have looked for more decent means.

The reporting of the same in a leading local newspaper was adding insult to injury. When reporting on a drama competition results, order of reporting would be best play, best director, best actor, best actress and so on. Ignoring the play that won three awards to an obscure corner and highlighting the names of the actor that shared an award and the best actress was the ugliest face of journalism. The newspaper also have an equal responsibility in promoting fair play. If they cannot do that, please at least spare the agony.

On second thought, the caption is right "Madhu and Madhuri did steal the limeight" literally.

Jacob Thomas,
Salimya

Biggest spill

SIR: The control of fire on the oil-laden vessel crippled and leaking in the Gulf of Mexico, as reported in your newspapers, was a great relief for environmentalists and people who care for the planet Earth.

The firefighters prevented what could have been the biggest spill in US history. Mega Borg, which contained 38 million gallons of light crude oil would have brought an environmental catastrophe of greatest magnitude if the fire could not have been contained. The sinking of the ship and

breakup would have spewed out three times the size of the 11 million gallons spilled from Exxon Valdez of Alaska last year.

The ship, fiercely ablaze, was just 57 miles south-east of Galveston, Texas. Although the source of the explosions is not known, it is now seriously being questioned how dangers can be contained with these carriers of catastrophe carrying millions of tons of crude oil. When a catastrophe hits such a carrier, the oil spills threaten entire coastlines and ecological disasters follow. Such goliathian vessels, which are already fatigued and battered after a quarter of a century of service, are still plying the high seas.

In response to the fire on Mega Borg, Shell suspended all crude shipments in US fearing huge liability claims in the event of an oil spill. This is the first of its kind decision by a large oil company and is representative of the fear which has now been incorporated as a result of claims against Exxon after the Valdez spill in Prince William Sound, Alaska. This has cost Exxon \$2 billion in cleaning efforts, excluding penalties for its role in Alaska spill.

Transportation

Shell's move is directed towards efforts to avoid involvement of mega oil companies in carrying out activities in environmental sensitive transportation of oil. This handling of the spills by these mega carriers raises serious doubts on the claims of oil industry. In case of Mega Borg, two days were wasted before the equipment arrived from Holland to put out the fire and a day to set up the equipment. The second concern is the lack of regulation of the tanker industry in the absence of proper training of deck officers and engineers to handle such spills.

There has to be a code of conduct which the mega oil companies should adhere to. The profits of transportation could not justify the unlimited and uninsurable risk involved and, therefore, mega oil companies like Shell can easily take their bands of transportation sector leaving it to smaller companies which may be unable to meet large claims in case of a spill and be liquidated leading to even less regulation and less safeguard because the smaller companies with not much high stakes involved will be more concerned with transportation profits than maintenance and competence of first class ship and its crew.

If all mega oil companies decide to suspend oil deliveries and wash their hands off the environmental sensitive transportation sector of black oil, then what we are sure of is higher number of accidents because the stakes will be much lower. The mega oil companies should not be allowed to wash their hands off the transportation to avoid enormous liability claims, as faced by Exxon. One cannot compartmentalise the profit of oil companies. Exxon cash flow in 1990 is expected to hit \$11 billion; in 1989, Exxon wrote off \$1.68 billion for spill-related costs, including \$300 million which they added in February 1990.

Since Feb 27, when settlement talks between the Justice Department and Exxon broke, an Anchorage jury charged Exxon with two felonies and three misdemeanours. The indictment is US government's most significant criminal pollution case ever. If convicted on all counts, Exxon faces probation and penalties likely exceeding \$700 million. This would include cost of cleaning up of the \$11 billion crude oil barrel and restoring Prince William Sound. There are other more than 180 civil suits against Exxon upward of \$400 million in lost income and punitive damages.

If the government wins a conviction, then it could not have a very devastating effect on Exxon's balance sheet. Exxon has already fully provided and written off nearly \$2 billion for such costs. How would a smaller Bahama-based company with a capital of \$5 million and with a leased tanker operated by such a company face up claims if their operated tanker spilled oil equivalent to what Valdez did? It would just close its shop and any government or environmentalist would have no recourse.

The US Congress is in the process of passing a bill to set up a \$1 billion trust fund financed by an oil tax so as to counter oil spill problems. They are also taking the helm in search of safer oil tankers. Both House and Senate have passed measures that would require new oil tankers operating in US waters to have far better oil spill protection such as double-layered hulls; all older vessels will have to be retrofitted with double hulls. Already twenty-four double-hulled tankers have been built carrying toxic chemicals.

According to coastguards, such a buffer would have reduced the Valdez spill by as much as 60 per cent.

The mega oil company like Dupont has shown concern on cost and Exxon complains that its present decapitated 200-ton vessel, Valdez, would need as much as \$30 million if a double hull is added, but it would not be hard in a decade to quickly convert approximately 1,500 foreign flag tankers and 160 domestic ships as the cost of ship safety measures would be passed on and add less than a penny a gallon at the pump.

The National Academy of Sciences is also looking at ways to prevent oil spills. The group is assessing double-hulled vessels, the use of protective, supposedly, rupture-proof membranes or bladders. They are also studying hydrostatic techniques, but the most important of all is that the well financed and sophisticated companies should not be allowed to abandon activities in environmental sensitive companies. Putting the fear of crime into corporations has led Exxon to believe that the penalties efficiently deter corporate wrongdoing.

The five-court indictment returned by the grand jury in Anchorage resulting in fines up to \$700 million are penalties which are several times higher than the harm they inflict on societies. The Sentencing Commission has proposed that fines should average about twice the size of damages. In Exxon's case, just three years ruined fishing in Prince William Sound has cost the local fishing industry \$300 million cost in lost revenue. Then, according to optimal punishment theory, the estimated total damages of \$700 million penalty makes sense.

The larger corporations by detaching themselves from ecological and environmental sensitive areas want to put off the fear and hence avoid the spending on regulation and compliance. This should be avoided at all costs.

Iqbal Latif,
Kuwait

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

ARAB TIMES, MONDAY, JUNE 18, 1990

China

Yunnan ethnic minorities give less trouble

KUNMING, China, (AP): Yunnan province's 24 colourful minorities are a public relations boon for Beijing, but the picture-postcard image of ethnic groups happily dancing and singing is often a facade.

Many minorities face poverty, illiteracy and isolation. Some find their cultural existence threatened by years of forced assimilation by the surrounding Han Chinese.

The minorities in this remote, mountainous province of southwest China give the government little trouble compared to Tibetans and the Muslim minorities of Xinjiang, who have demonstrated violently for independence.

An old Sanyi woman selling hand-embroidered bags, seat covers and aprons in Kunming, the provincial capital, flashed a gap-toothed smile and proudly told a visitor she belonged to the Chinese Communist Party and had served in the local People's Congress.

Remote

Even in remote Lijiang, reachable only by a bumpy two-day bus ride across mountains, several Nakhi (Naxi in Chinese) people say, "we are Chinese first, then Nakhi."

"Yunnan's minority issues are the best-handled in China," said Shen Qirong, director of culture and education for Yunnan's Nationalities Affairs Commission. "Here, we are like a family."

"We have conflicts and arguments, but that's inevitable," he said, adding that most of the disputes were territorial.

Shen said some of Yunnan's minorities—40 per cent of all those in China—ever had demanded independence.

He acknowledged the ethnic groups in Yunnan did not like the idea of being under Chinese rule, but he said they did not have specific complaints.

Many minority people say what they dislike is, as they describe it, the superior attitude of Han Chinese.

"They look down on us. That's wrong," said Xuan Ke, an intellectual of the Nakhi group.

He said Han Chinese insult minority people by refusing to eat the local food, complaining of lack of hygiene and criticising them for not bathing.

Still, Shen said, "we have fewer minority problems than the Soviet Union or Eastern Europe because, historically, we have been a multi-nationality country."

Rebellious

Nearly 50 per cent of the Soviet Union's population is non-Russian, compared with less than eight per cent in China. Many minority people, especially in Yunnan, were assimilated into Chinese culture long ago.

Tibetans have been rebellious, battling Chinese security forces in protest for independence. On May 1, the Chinese lifted martial law in Lhasa, capital of Tibet, after more than a year.

In Xinjiang province, home to 7.3 million Huis, six million Uyghurs and several other Muslim ethnic groups, the latest violence occurred in April, when at least 22 people were killed in the suppression of a Muslim Khrigiz "holy war" for independence.

Yunnan has major advantages over other parts of China in dealing with its minorities.

The ethnic groups are comparatively small, ranging from 4,000 Dulong to 3.6 million Bais. They also are scattered in a large area and separated from each other by rivers and mountains.

Instead of dealing with ethnic disturbances, the government of Yunnan issues propaganda brochures that show beaming girls in colourful traditional garb, working in the fields or markets, and entire counties turning out for exotic festivals.

Persecuted

During the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution, minorities were persecuted and forced to give up their traditions, dress and language.

In recent years, China has generally allowed minorities to resume their old patterns of life, speak their own languages and wear traditional clothing.

In Dali, women of the Bai minority wrap colourful strips of cloth around their heads

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Despite efforts

Iranian currency plunges

NICOSIA, June 17. (Reuters) The Iranian rial plunged against the dollar on the black market today despite a new government effort to bring foreign exchange dealings under control.

The dollar was trading for 1,420 rials, up 120 since Friday, and a 12 per cent premium over a new importers' rate established yesterday.

Banks in Tehran now sell dollars to importers of non-essential goods for 1,270 rials — much closer to black market rates.

Iran's official exchange rate, 70 rials to the dollar, is used mainly for imports of basic food and medicines. A preferential rate of 800 rials to the dollar remains in force for imports of machinery and raw materials for factories.

The new importers' rate is part of a Central Bank campaign to break the unofficial foreign exchange market in Tehran and other cities, to which the government in the past turned a blind eye. The rial is also traded in the Gulf, Turkey, Pakistan, Afghanistan and London.

The Central Bank said on Tuesday it had issued 115 licences to moneychangers and banned foreign currency dealings by unauthorised individuals.

Ali Pakpour, a London-based money-dealer, said: "I have sold so many dollars in the past two days that I have no more left. I can't cope with demand. The situation is much worse than before the government introduced its new importers' rate."

Pakpour said he expected the dollar to rise to 1,500 rials in a near future.

The trend is upwards and the government's decision to arrest unauthorised moneychangers has only led to panic. People with hard cash are hanging on to it in anticipation of higher rial rates," Pakpour said.

Record profit for KPC

KUWAIT, June 17. (AP) The state-owned Kuwait Petroleum Corp. posted a record profit of \$41 million dinars (\$1.2 billion) last year, Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Khalifa announced today.

Sheikh Ali, who heads the corporation's board, said in its annual report that the total marked a 142 per cent increase, more than 200 million dinars (\$700 million), over the 1988 profits.

The Kuwait corporation ranks eighth among the world's oil industry giants.

Sheikh Ali said it "realised a capital gain of 15 per cent and an annual average of 20 per cent throughout the nine years of its existence during which the value of its assets has increased four-fold."

The corporation has been expanding its exploration and production operations around the world, including acquiring refineries and downstream projects in Europe.

The KPC has gained for itself a renowned and influential position in the oil industry worldwide," Sheikh Ali said.

Among the corporation's recent acquisitions was a \$300 million takeover of Mobil Italia.

The corporation also owns three refineries with a total capacity of 220,000 barrels a day in Italy, the Netherlands and Denmark and more than 5,000 gas stations in several European countries.

The report was published as the oil and petrochemical industries' employees' union decided to call off a strike scheduled for today to press for pay hikes.

The workers are already among the best paid in the Arab world.

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Bright forecast for services sectors

THE services sectors in the six Gulf states account for a sizeable percentage of the region's GDP, averaging close to 46.8 per cent in 1988. The largest contribution of services activities to gross domestic product is in Bahrain (62.4 per cent) followed by Qatar (52.6 per cent) and Saudi Arabia (48.6 per cent). The percentage contribution of these sectors to GDP in the other Gulf states ranges between 41 per cent and 42 per cent.

Activities in these sectors have been financed mostly by government expenditures derived from oil revenues with a sizeable portion of the domestic requirements being provided for by imports.

However, the trend in the coming decade is to encourage greater private sector participation, diversify the kind of services activities generated domestically

and reduce the dependence on the outside world for the provision of these services.

Promoting the services sectors appears to offer a chance to diversify Gulf economic structure, given the difficulties encountered in establishing viable agricultural and industrial activities aside from those related to oil and petrochemicals.

Henry Azzam, the chief economist of GIB said the Gulf region is considered more important as a net importer of services than a new supplier. In 1989, a total deficit of \$15.8 billion is estimated to have been recorded in the balance of services and transfers for the six Gulf states. This deficit has been on a declining trend after reaching a peak of \$44 billion in 1981.

Exports of services, which include earnings from shipping, aviation, insurance, banking,

tourism and other services recorded average rates of growth of 20 per cent per annum during the boom period of 1976-1981.

This gave way to annual rates of growth of 2 per cent during 1982-1985 period before declining in the subsequent three years. Payments to acquire services from abroad which rose at an annual rate of 35 per cent between 1976 and 1981, increased by less than 1 per cent during the period of 1982-1986 before declining thereafter.

The 1990s appear to be quiet

promising, with the beginning of an upturn in economic activities and a general anticipation of better times ahead for the major services sectors. Because services activities are basically labour intensive, governments of the region are hoping that growth in these sectors will generate sizeable employment opportunities

for Gulf nationals in the years ahead.

The category of "other services" which includes banking, health, educational services, public administration, support services, consulting and engineering services, accounting and legal activities among others will not be discussed here. The presentation in this issue will be confined to a brief overview of insurance, aviation, shipping and tourism in the Gulf. Other services will be discussed in forthcoming issues.

The upturn in the region's trade activities is presenting shipping companies that serve the six Gulf states with fresh opportunities. Although hope of a quick boom period has been replaced by more realistic assessments, the shipping industry can look forward to a period of gradual but

(Continued on Page 14)

Consumer spending dips

Saudis boost investments

RIYADH, June 17. (Kuna) The year 1988 seemed to be a landmark that showed the end of the recession period and the start of growth in the regional and domestic economy, according to the annual report of the Council of Saudi Chambers of Commerce and Industry published here today.

The report, which covers the period of 1988, underlined two major developments characterising the year under review: the Gulf war between Iraq and Iran came to an end, though a lasting peace is yet to materialise, and Opec countries reached an accord that included Iraq and adopted a new production ceiling.

Other positive characteristics included improvement in local demand, credit institutions activity, growth in the non-oil sector and meeting deficits in national budgets through new measures which avoided relying on withdrawing from national

reserves.

The report pointed out that the economy registered a net growth rate of 3.2 per cent despite a 1.1 per cent drop in oil revenues during the year. On the sectoral level, industry grew from 1.9 per cent in 1987 to 4.7 per cent in 1988, while agriculture continued its growth at more than 10 per cent.

Moreover, net government expenditure grew by SR19.3 billion and domestic government investments increased by 8.7 per cent over 1987. At the same time consumer spending dropped from 91 per cent to 88.6 per cent leaving more for investment in production.

More importantly, the balance of trade showed an SR8 billion improvement, whereby exports exceeded imports in terms of value. This culminated in a trend in reducing the budget deficit gap from SR52.7 billion in 1987 to SR35.9 billion in 1988 and SR25 billion in 1989.

A qualitative indicator sum-

ming off these developments was the increase in the Saudi workforce by eight per cent and a reduction of foreign employment by seven per cent during the period.

The private sector performance also showed good progress, as it registered a 4.7 per cent growth rate in industry, 10.5 per cent in agriculture, five per cent in services and for the first time in several years, 6.4 per cent in construction, which had been badly hit by the recession period.

All this led to the private sector contributing 44 per cent to the GDP.

The private sector improved its financial potential by bringing back some SR16.7 billion from abroad in 1988 to meet its domestic commitments. Moreover, the number of registered companies increased by 336 with a combined capital of SR1,350 million, while public companies alone added eight new firms with a

combined capital of SR2,576 million. By the end of 1987, the number of new producing factories totalled 44 with a total financing of SR452 million.

Joint projects have also shown a similar improvement. In the industrial sector alone, producing plants totalled 429 with a combined capital of SR49.2 billion, while the total number of industrial and other joint projects amounted to 1,567 with a combined capital of SR59.8 billion with the Saudi share in it being 75.7 per cent. Public companies by the end of 1988 totalled 63 with a combined capital of SR45.5 billion.

However, along these lines the council has continued its efforts to carry out its duties in two main areas, to take all opportunities to increase and improve private sector contribution in the development drive and pool all the resources of the chambers of commerce kingdom-wide to support the private sector.

Stock market to get a boost

Italy seeks to improve image

MILAN, June 17. (Reuters) Once considered a side show to mainstream European financial action, Italy's stock exchange has in recent months become the continent's hottest bourse.

A daily turnover of around 300 billion lire (\$250 million) on the Milan Bourse may still seem small change when compared with the huge business done in London, Frankfurt or even Paris, but stock prices have been rising strongly.

Encouraged by the continuing good performance of the economy and the strength of the lira, foreign investors have been rushing to buy shares.

This foreign interest has been crucial in helping drive up the local MIB stock market index by 10 per cent since the beginning of the year, local stockbrokers say.

"I had an order recently for 10 billion lire (around \$8 million) from a foreign institution, which did not mind what I bought. Just today, they said," Sergio Pignoli of Milan stockbrokers studio Pastorini told Reuters.

Sam Alphonso to present paper

Indian envoy to take part in NRI seminar

ARUN K. Budhiraja, Indian ambassador to Kuwait will participate as patron of the NRI Investors' Forum, Kuwait along with the other NRI delegates in the 3rd NRI Seminar, which will be held on July 5 and 6, 1990 at Taj Palace Hotel, New Delhi.

The delegation will include: R.P. Singh, first secretary, Indian embassy; M. Mathews, chairman, Indian Arts Circle; H.V. Rangaswamy, managing director, KITEC; leading NRI businessmen, doctors and other professionals from Kuwait.

The seminar will devote a special session on India's foreign trade and tourism to focus on measures to promote NRIs contribution in these sectors.

In addition, this will also present a good opportunity to interact with Indian businessmen from other countries.

The seminar arrangements offer highly subsidized rates for registration as well as other hotel facilities. All NRIs are encouraged to avail of this special opportunity to participate in great numbers in this conference. For more details please contact Kuwait India International Exchange Co., Kuwait or Fahad.

ings in India, will have an excellent opportunity to communicate their suggestions as well as problem areas directly with the senior government officials.

In addition, the seminar will also include special presentations from the state industrial corporations to highlight the project investment opportunities and incentives made available to NRIs in various Indian states. A number of state corporation teams have confirmed their participation.

NRIs businessmen from the Arabian Gulf countries can hold direct discussions with the government officials from the commerce, finance and other ministries as well as the state officials during the three day seminar.

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Sam Alphonso, member, high level Export Consultative Committee and a leading NRI businessman, will present a detailed paper on the subject in this session. Efforts are being made to highlight bottlenecks presently experienced in promoting Indian imports; with constructive suggestions to alleviate these problems.

It is expected that minister of state for commerce and other senior government officials will attend this seminar. Therefore, NRIs having business deal-

Traders exploit subsidy

SFAX, Tunisia, June 17. (Reuters) "Welcome to the market place of the Maghreb," said Hassan, proudly displaying his stock of Algerian light bulbs, leather shoes from Morocco, chocolate bars from Egypt and pasta made in Libya.

Hassan, who runs one of some 500 stalls down by the docks in the Tunisian port of Sfax, would like you to believe he is leading the drive for regional economic integration.

"We believe in free trade," he said. "We don't pay customs duty and we don't intend to either."

But as five North African countries take the first steps towards establishing a common market stretching from Torkub to the Atlantic coast, the merchants of the so-called "Libya market" in Sfax are making the most of the remaining discrepancies.

Every day hundreds of Tunisian pick-up trucks make the trip across the border to buy goods imported by the Libyan government with heavily overvalued Libyan dinars.

They take with them Tunisian products, like clothes and household goods, or imported goods which are unavailable in Libya because the state trading companies do not import them.

When money changes hands, it is at the rate of one Tunisian dinar to one Libyan. At the official rate the Libyan is worth three times as much.

looking at joint investment companies that would take share in the capital of new Algerian commercial, industrial and real estate firms.

Only last week the Algerian government approved an agreement with the overseas private investment corporation, a US government agency that finances and insures private American investment in developing countries.

Algeria spends three-quarters of its annual hard currency revenue of around \$10 billion to service foreign debt of \$24 billion. There is little left over to import food, spare parts and material to keep factories running.

The March finance law gives foreign firms the right to form wholly-owned Algerian subsidiaries and majority-owned joint ventures with Algerian firms.

French bankers said joint ventures were being discussed between the Algerian state and corporate giants Michelin, Peugeot and Rhone Poulen. Middle-sized French firms were studying partnerships with the private sector.

Arab and Western finance institutions are



C.S.S. Khanpuri (left) chairman of the NRI Investors Forum, Kuwait pictured with other officials.



A view of the audience

Investment fund launched

ANZ Grindlays Bank launched the Second India Investment Fund yesterday at the Kuwait Sheraton Hotel.

ANZ Grindlays has already established a creditable track record in management of the first fund, which to the end of December 1989 had achieved pre-tax growth of 48 per cent. A unique feature of the second fund is the fact that it will have no capital gains tax liability in India.

This is possible due to a recent double tax treaty between India and Netherlands. Under this treaty, dividend income will suffer only 15 per cent tax instead of the usual 25 per cent. Although Dutch capital gains is normally levied at rates between 35

per cent and 40 per cent the managers have obtained a ruling from the authorities, the effect of which is that no tax at all will be payable on 80 per cent of revenue. As a result the managers anticipate a tax rate on the second fund of approximately half the 20 per cent rate normally suffered by NRI's.

Explaining the fund's investment philosophy of targeting new issues and those of expanding companies, Roger Cottrell said, "We believe that this is the sector of the market offering exceptional investment returns providing investors can obtain professional on the spot investigation of the opportunities. We aim to provide this in the management of the second fund." The fund is now open for subscription and the earliest closing date is July 10, 1990.

Gulf Bank weekly market review

KD mostly lower

Kuwaiti dinar

Based on last week's opening middle market foreign exchange rates, the KD exchange rate eased against the dollar ending the week at 292.53 fils compared with its week before last closing of 291.92 fils. The KD was lower against the pound sterling, ending the week at 499.2 fils compared with its week before last closing of 492.82 fils.

The KD was lower against the DM ending the week at 173.56 fils compared with its week before last closing of 172.98 fils. The KD was also lower against the SFR ending the week at 205.43 fils compared with its week before last closing of 203.00 fils. The KD was slightly lower against the Canadian dollar ending the week at 249.65 fils compared with its week before last closing of 249.56 fils.

The KD was lower against the Jordanian dinar ending the week at 434.67 fils compared with its week before last closing of 433.76 fils. The KD traded slightly lower against all other GCC currencies compared to the week before last rates. As for the KD money market rates, short term interbank offer rates, traded at 8.68 per cent 8.81 per cent and 12-month rates traded at 8.81 per cent - 8.87 per cent range same as the week before last.

Ministers call for freer trade

ANTIGUA, Guatemala, June 17. (UPI): Central American economic and foreign ministers agreed yesterday that the answer to the region's devastating economic crisis lies in implementing export-oriented and free-market economic policies.

In a first draft of a proposal presented to the presidents of Central America and Panama during the weekend's economic summit, the ministers called on the international community for fresh loans and grants, and a renegotiation of the region's staggering foreign debt that would allow for growth and development.

The document — compiled Friday by the ministers of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama — backed existing programmes in the region aimed at privatizing state-run industries.

It focused on finding ways to expand the market for Central American goods, mainly to the United States and Europe.

The ministers urged their presidents, who opened a two-day summit Saturday morning in Antigua about 30 miles (48 km) from Guatemala City, to continue expanding current import substitution programmes, while recommending gradual trade liberalization.

The document suggested creating a fund made up of money contributed by Central American countries, foreign governments and private donors that would "rescue the debt at market value."

Guatemalan Foreign Minister Ariel Rivera Iris said, "first we have to straighten out the Central American common market and then he have to go look for funding."

The ministers stressed the importance of adopting policies that would lead the region towards greater self-sufficiency.

They also called for concrete measures to stabilize farm product prices by co-ordinating policies that permit the effective incorporation of the agricultural sector into economic and social development, initiating programmes that guarantee a steady supply of basic products."

A specific measure regarding imports proposed establishing a common tariff system within the structure of the general agreement on tariffs and trade, or GATT.

The document also called on the presidents to find ways to dilute any immediate negative effect the proposed programme might have on the region's poor and urged more input from the private sector in co-ordinating the new plan and any future economic policies.

Personal spending to remain steady: report

TOKYO, June 17. (UPI): Personal expenditures in Japan will remain robust in fiscal 1990 because of the changing style of spending, a bank report said today.

The Yokohama Bank said in its report on trends of personal consumption that the present consumption boom is characterized by a new type of spending.

"Purchases are made to improve the quality of life and this type of spending is spreading not only among families with assets but among consumers of all levels," the report said.

"This kind of consumption is from a deep-seated desire to improve living conditions and has become habitual, making it difficult for consumers to revise their spending downward."

The report said the recent slump in stock prices will inevitably cause negative impact on consumption but should not push down the growth of consumption as much as 0.8 percent.

Spending by salaried workers should remain firm mainly because the spring wage hike at almost 6.0 per cent exceeded the 5.2 per cent rise last year, the report said.

Better times ahead for major services sectors

(Continued from Page 13)

steady growth.

The ongoing diversification of the Gulf economies, particularly the rising production of aluminum and petrochemicals will further give a boost to the region's shipping industry as non-oil exports pick up.

The demand for Gulf oil is projected to rise in the 1990s and the opening up of Eastern Europe has also created a new potential market. The stronger world oil demand will further push up freight rates encouraging the Gulf countries to embark on a tanker expansion programme. Ports and airports expansion and modernisation schemes for the GCC countries are also on the cards, though it remains to be seen whether passenger traffic and cargo level increases will justify the expansion.

The cessation of hostilities between Iran and Iraq and the projected upturn in economic activities in the 1990s has ushered in a new era for the airline industry in the Gulf. The prevailing optimism has generated a rush for new aircraft orders as the region's airlines gear up to take advantage of the new economic and political con-

ditions which are more conducive to airline growth. These emerging new trends are in sharp contrast to the recessionary conditions of the 1980s when the region's airlines saw a large fall off in traffic. Growth was stifled due to the downturn in business activity in the Gulf, while the war between Iran and Iraq closed air-space routes to civilian airlines and increased aviation hazards.

The drive to promote tourism in the Gulf will provide a further boost to the airline industry. Tourist traffic is a rapidly growing sector with most of the GCC countries actively involved in boosting their tourist potential and increasing the number of visitors they receive each year.

With the lay down of a sound infrastructure — hotels, roads, communications systems, and other facilities, the basic groundwork for the development of the tourist sector has already been completed. It now remains for the region to exploit the tourist potential and develop more facilities. Great strides are being taken in this direction particularly by Bahrain, Oman and the UAE. There is plenty of scope not just for foreign visitors, but for intra-Arab tourism as well.

The strengthening of tourism potentials lies in the fact that there is room to develop an identity without sacrificing national heritage, culture or traditions. Indeed, it is these that constitute the capital required to promote Gulf tourism. Though it is likely to be while before the tourist industry does fully take off, however, when it does it will be a boost to the region's economies.

Falling oil revenues and the consequent shrinkage of business in the Gulf have had their effects on the formerly thriving insurance and reinsurance markets in the region. However insurance companies are now more optimistic. Some even see the economic slowdown of the 1980s as a blessing in disguise because it has created an awareness among businessmen, importers, and even laymen about the advantages of having insurance coverage.

The basic structure of the Gulf insurance industry is now in place. It is expected that as economic activities in the Gulf continue to pick up momentum, the region's imports will rise generating an upturn in marine cargo premiums. New ventures in petrochemicals, gas liquification, chemical fertilizers and oil

refineries are expected to emerge alongside such infrastructure requirements as water desalination, electricity generation and other utilities and services. All of these developments will warrant insurance coverage in one form or another, and Gulf insurance and reinsurance companies are well positioned to exploit them.

Following the slump in the Gulf airline industry of the 1980s, growth prospects for the 1990s appear more encouraging. Passenger and freight traffic is forecast to grow and the region's airlines are poised to cash in on the new trend. Boeing Commercial Airplane Company forecasts traffic growth of 5.7 per cent a year over the coming ten years for all Middle East and North African airlines. For the same period, McDonnell Douglas projects annual average growth of 5.1 per cent in passenger traffic between Europe and the Middle East, and similar growth in cargo traffic.

The end of the Gulf war should lead to the opening up of air space allowing airlines to take more direct routes thus saving on fuel and flying time. There should be an increase in traffic to both Iran and Iraq particularly as recon-

struction activities in the two countries pick up.

The return to profitability has been accompanied by cost cutting measures designed to reduce overheads. Kuwait Airways in particular has been successful in its rationalisation drive. The airline has remained profitable for the sixth year in a row with the 1988 figures showing a record profit of \$11.3 million up from \$7.67 the previous year.

Its commercial fleet comprises 19 aircraft with passenger load factor of 63 per cent in 1988. The airline is looking at new destinations to raise market share and is making efforts to improve capacity utilisation on its existing routes which cover 42 international destinations.

Gulf Air which is jointly owned by Abu Dhabi, Oman, Qatar, and Bahrain registered a turnaround in 1988 with profits of \$6.8 million following a reported loss of \$7.7 million in 1987. In 1989, profits soared to \$73.4 million boosted by funds from the sale and leaseback of eight ageing Boeing 737s.

The airline is presently expanding its fleet as well as its route network. Gulf Air has 21 aircraft and a reported passenger load

factor in 1988 of 65 per cent. The rise in passenger traffic has contributed to the airline's profitability.

Previously a dramatic slump in revenues brought into effect cost cutting measures which involved staff reduction of about 8 percent and the closing down of overseas divisions. The airline is hoping to have as much as 50 percent of its business generated outside the Gulf in the next three to four years.

The region's largest airline, Saudia has also been through some lean times. Its commercial fleet comprises 20 Boeing 747s, 17 Lockheed Tristar, 11 Airbus A300-600s and 19 Boeing 737s. It operates over 50 international destinations and 23 stations within the Kingdom and has an aircraft fleet of 43 carriers. The slow growth in airline traffic in previous years and national budgetary constraints have prevented replacement of the airline's fleet.

Though Saudia ranks as the eighteenth largest airline in the world in terms of passengers it has not been profitable due to the low fares charged on its domestic routes. These are close to \$0.08 a kilometre which is as little as a

half or a third of the fare in Europe or North America.

The Dubai-based Emirates Airlines is the region's newest airline and started operations in October 1985.

The airline has seen its passengers traffic surge from 20,000 in 1985 to about 800,000 in 1989. The airline currently runs more than 120 flights a week to destinations in Asia, Europe, and the Middle East and is planning to further increase its market share. It carries half of the passengers travelling between Dubai and London and has a major share of traffic to the Indian sub-continent.

Though the region's airlines look set to take advantage of new opportunities and boost their overall revenues, they will be faced with increasingly tough competition on their international routes. The trend in world aviation these days is the emergence of mega carriers following new airline groupings. This along with an emerging barrier free Europe will mean that the airlines in the Gulf region will need to co-operate in order to compete successfully.

(To be continued)

Iran, Pakistan and Turkey hold ministerial meeting

ECO seeks more economic links

ISLAMABAD, June 17. (Agencies): Iran, Pakistan and Turkey hold a ministerial meeting in Islamabad tomorrow to breathe life into their flagging Economic Co-operation Organisation (ECO).

Joint venture plans have suffered bureaucratic delays since ECO was formed five years ago out of the defunct Regional Co-operation for Development that grouped the three countries before the 1979 Iranian revolution.

Tomorrow's meeting is aimed at upgrading the organisation to ministerial level to help speed up decisions, Pakistani officials said.

Recommendations to upgrade the body were made by top Foreign Ministry officials of the three countries at a meeting in Tehran in May.

Their proposals will be put for

approval to Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati of Iran and Sahabzada Yaqub Khan of Pakistan and the Turkish Minister of State in charge of Economic Affairs, Isin Celebi.

Important decisions to strengthen ECO and give it a "new thrust and direction" are likely to be taken, one official said.

Proposed projects include an investment bank and a trade preferential system, and Pakistani officials said significant progress had already been made on both.

A preferential tariff protocol has been drafted and progress has been made on the list of items to be traded among the three countries under this arrangement, the officials said.

An Istanbul-based ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry was set up in April this year to help promote trade and

economic co-operation.

Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati left today for Pakistan to attend the first foreign ministerial session, the news agency Irna said.

Before leaving Velayati called the meeting a "useful step towards advancing the common goals of the three member states," saying Islam was the most important factor binding the countries, according to Irna, which was monitored in Cyprus.

Meanwhile, Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh said in Tehran today that his country's oil production capacity will rise to 4.4 million barrels a day in two years, Irna reported.

Industry analysts say that much of its infrastructure is aging and estimate that modernization to sustain increased output could cost as much as \$8 billion.

Aqazadeh said Iran has opened representative offices in Rotterdam, Singapore and the Caribbean "in a bid to maintain active presence in the consumer market and deliver oil directly to the consumer."

Speaking at a news conference, Aqazadeh stressed that Iran would adhere to the production quota of 3.14 million barrels a day set by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries,

even though its capacity was larger than that, Irna reported.

Aqazadeh reported Iran's output capacity in March at 3.3 million barrels a day. He said then that Iran would be able to pump 3.7 million barrels a day by the end of July, and up to 4 million barrels a day next year.

Iran's oil industry, which produces 90 percent of its foreign currency revenues, was severely hit during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

Industry analysts say that much of its infrastructure is aging and estimate that modernization to sustain increased output could cost as much as \$8 billion.

Aqazadeh said Iran has opened representative offices in Rotterdam, Singapore and the Caribbean "in a bid to maintain active presence in the consumer market and deliver oil directly to the consumer."

Nonetheless, the company hailed the settlement announced Friday.

"We have been discussing things with the Iranians and we were pleased to reach the settlement," Amoco spokesman Mike Thompson said Friday.

Two subsidiaries of Chicago-based Amoco had filed claims against the National Iranian Oil Company.

Under terms of the agreement, Amoco Iran Oil Co. will receive \$340 million for the seizure of four Gulf drilling fields and the oil terminal on Kharq Island, Iran's most important oil terminal.

Amoco International Finance Corp. was awarded \$60 million for the expropriation of a petrochemical processing plant that was half-owned by Amoco.

The company said it expects to recognize the all-cash settlement in its second-quarter results, provided it receives the money by the end of June as anticipated.



Sharp service training

An intensive service training programme was conducted by Maseelah Trading Co. on a wide range of Sharp electronic products backed by the technical expertise of Sharp Corporation. Uematsu of Sharp instructed the team of latest products from Sharp including world multi-system MTC, electronic coated drum VCR's. This service training programme is part of Maseelah Trading Co.'s commitment to quality after sales support on all Sharp products sold in Kuwait. Picture shows Uematsu of Sharp instructing MTC service technicians on latest Sharp products.

Vintage Swatch prices rising fast

AT a sale of modern art organised by Mangisch auction house in Zurich on Saturday, 19 May 1990, a number of Swatch specials stole the show by going for sums that were astronomical in relation to their original retail prices. A feat made all the more remarkable by the fact that the watches in question were ordinary manufactured items (albeit limited editions), none of which was more than seven years old.

The undisputed star of Saturday's auction was an Original Jelly Fish, produced as a limited edition of 200 in 1983 and distributed to selected journalists to mark Swatch's international launch. The watch went under the hammer for a sensation of Sfr. 5,750. (including commission).

Only slightly less impressive was the sale of a complete set of four Keith Haring Specials to an unknown collector for Sfr. 10,350. (likewise including commission).

But there were the outstanding sales of the day. There were plenty of other Swatches from the ordinary range fetching bids up to 17 times as high as their original retail prices back in 1983. A watch costing a

mere Sfr. 39.50 seven years ago, for example, fetched no less than Sfr. 690. including commission, on Saturday.

If we compare prices at Saturday's sale with those at the last auction about six months ago, one thing is immediately obvious: prices for vintage Swatch watches continue to soar.

And with the body of avid Swatch collectors growing all the time, the trend seems likely to continue. It is fascinating to see the lengths to which Swatch lovers will go to get their hands on a rarity, or simply a Swatch that has taken their fancy. A thriving unofficial network of collectors already exists in Europe, through which enthusiasts are able to contact collectors, locate the watches they are looking for and organise sales and exchanges.

All of which bodes well for the official Swatch Collectors Club, due to be launched this summer and initially restricted to Switzerland and Germany. If current trends are anything to go by, the Club seems destined to be an immediate and resounding success.

Telefonica reports profits up 9.6 pc

Cash flow expanding

MADRID, Spain, June 17. (AP): Spain's Telefonica earned net profits of 68,898 billion pesetas (\$661.92 million) in 1989, up 9.6 per cent from 62,845 billion a year earlier, the firm's chairman said yesterday.

Candido Velazquez also said pre-tax profits for the first five months of this year rose 18 per cent to 41,268 billion pesetas on the strength of continued high demand for new phone lines and growing phone use propelled by Spain's fast-growing economy.

The state-controlled telephone monopoly company last year took in earned revenues of 710,904 billion pesetas, up 16.1 per cent over the 612,536 billion pesetas of a year earlier, permitting the installation of 4.7 million telephone lines, 51.7 per cent more than the previous year.

Cash flow expanded in 1989 to 334,658 billion pesetas, up 9.9 per cent from 304,537 billion pesetas in 1988.

Of the new lines installed last year, 87.3 per cent were digital. Spain boasted 13.16 million installed telephone lines at the end of last year, of which 19.6 percent were digital, up from 10.8 percent just a year earlier.

Stage set for historic experiment of German monetary union

BONN, June 17. (Reuter): West Germany's parliament will pass a treaty on monetary union of the two Germanys this week, setting the stage for one of the most ambitious economic experiments in history.

The treaty has its final reading on Thursday in West Germany's lower house of parliament and will become law on Friday, now that the opposition Social Democrats (SPD), who control the upper house, have decided not to block its passage.

"This is a historically unique experiment," said Finance Minister Theo Waigel in a recent newspaper interview.

West Germany, Europe's biggest economy, will introduce its marks, taxes and free market rules into East Germany from July 1, as the first step towards political union.

East Germany's once a showpiece economy in Eastern Europe but hopelessly backward by Western standards, will scrap generous price subsidies and force state-owned firms to face the chill wind of competition for the first time.

"Monetary union means the change from a centrally planned economy to the free market overnight," said Waigel.

West German reform of East Germany's economy will be a test case for other countries in Eastern Europe which are ditching centrally planned systems and seeking Western investment.

John Cleese intends to go on, no slowdown for this funny man

CHICAGO: June 17, (AP): Sixteen years ago in "Monty Python and the Holy Grail," John Cleese mimed the Middle Ages for laughs.

But in his own middle age, the British writer and actor believed for a while that his style of comedy had become as outdated as the medieval customs the Python film parodied.

The international success of his 1988 comedy, "A Fish Called Wanda," erased some of the self-doubt, Cleese said in a recent interview in Chicago. But the experience taught him something.

"If you're doing anything creative, you have to assume that you do not know that you know," he said. "The moment you think you know — 'I know how to do this, I know

how to make comedy films work' — the day you think that, you're dead."

"But if you really wonder each day if you can do it, if you know that each day you're starting from scratch and you can fall on your face at any moment, then I think you

have a chance of going on and doing good work."

At age 50, the multi-faceted Cleese clearly intends to go on, building upon the successful work he's done in the past.

During the next 12 months, Cleese plans to finish co-writing a second *an-o-ficchio* book with British psychiatrist Rohyn

Skinner and oversee the production of some new corporate training films for Video Arts, a lucrative London-based company he helped found in 1972.

The founders sold Video Arts to its management in November, but Cleese still writes and acts in the humorous films and remains "our creative guru," said Ann Boland, general manager of the company's US subsidiary, based on the Chicago area.

By mid-1991 Cleese expects to begin work on a movie remitting him with his "Wanda" co-stars Jamie Lee Curtis, Kevin Kline and Michael Palin. Cleese also said he hopes to work once more with Charles Crichton, the elderly director of "Wanda," which Cleese wrote and produced. He wouldn't disclose details of the film, except that it will be a

comedy.

One thing Cleese's plans don't include is a break in the frenetic pace he has set since 1983 when, after earning a law degree from Cambridge University, he instead pursued an acting and writing career.

His work with the Cambridge Footlights, an amateur stage group, led to appearances in several BBC comedy shows, including "Monty Python's Flying Circus." The 1969 series was exported to the United States and introduced American viewers to the absurd and irreverent deadpan humour of Cleese, Palin, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Terry Gilliam and Graham Chapman, who died in October.

The TV programme spun off a series of Python stage shows, books, records and

films that served as launching pads for solo careers for the troupe's members.

Cleese's roles and project since then reflect the diversity of his interests.

He expanded his stock of comic characters by creating ill-tempered hotel owner Basil Fawlty in the mid-1970s British TV series "Fawlty Towers." But Cleese also has played everything from Shakespeare's Petruchio to an Old West sheriff in Lawrence Kasdan's 1984 film "Silverado."

And although he won an Emmy award in 1987 for his guest performance as a psychiatrist on the US television series "Cheers," Cleese views himself primarily as a writer.

"I've often noticed that something in me slightly bristles when people say I'm a

actor," said Cleese, whose original screenplay for "Wanda" was nominated for an academy award and won a David of Donatello Award, Italy's Oscar.

His real-life role as a psychotherapist client piqued his interest in psychiatry and led to his co-authorship with Skinner of "Families and How to Survive Them," which was published in 1983. The sequel will be titled "Life and How to Survive It."

Cleese has been divorced twice and has two children.

He said he nearly gave up comedy three or four years ago after some comedians he had recruited for an Amnesty International benefit — people who had influenced his own style — got very few laughs from the hip young London audience.

Madonna gyrates

What was Beatty doing there?

IT WAS the wrap party for "Dick Tracy," the new film that opened June 15 based on the original 1930s comic strip, to the centre of the floor the lady known as Madonna — pop icon and cultural phenomenon — danced by herself as if transfixed. Dressed in a risqué black bra and a skin-tight corset, she gyrated provocatively. Whenever a would-be partner approached she physically pushed him away.

At a table on the side Warren Beatty, now 52, sat watching her. From time to time she went and sat on his lap for a moment, but then quickly went back to dancing alone.

It was a sight long-time fans never thought they'd see: the once-time megastar, director and most successful Don Juan in the history of the movies, looking out of place, the expression on his face clearly asked, "What am I doing here?" It was Beatty as the sugar daddy, only this time she had all the sugar. Madonna — more than 20 years his junior — had picked the hall, the caterer and selected the band. Madonna's show and Beatty's had tagged along for the ride.

On the set of their movie it was the same. A typical scene went like this: Beatty, as usual, was on the telephone. While he talked, a blushing lady, on her mark and ready to shoot, fumed. Finally, she had had it.

"Beatty, yelled the Material Girl, 'if you're not on the phone in one minute I'm outta here.'

Beatty dropped the phone as if it were red hot.

"I couldn't believe it," said a long-time Beatty associate. "Diane (Keaton) used to walk away when he was on the phone, but she always came back. I guess he knew he couldn't count on that with Madonna."

To see Beatty, formerly dedicated Casanova, being bossed around by a woman, was more than some of his old pals could stand. Since he first emerged on the Hollywood scene almost three decades ago as the handsome leading man in "Splendor in the Grass" (1961), women have flocked to his arms: Joanne Collins, Natalie Wood, Leslie Caron, Isabelle Adjani, Britt Ekland, Carly Simon, Julie Christie, Michelle Phillips. It seems he has always had women in the palm of his hand. "International banking" he called it — a woman in every port.

"It wasn't a question of whether Warren would get a woman into bed," said a long-time Beatty watcher. "It's who and where. It's who he's with."

Although most of Beatty's women have kept quiet about their romance with the star, a decade ago Ekland came clean about life with Beatty. She wrote in her 1980 memoir *True Brit*: "Beatty was the most divine lover of all. His libido was as lethal as high-octane gas. I had never known such pleasure and passion in my life."

Women gave up husbands, countries, lifestyles, even responsibility for Beatty. But now Madonna.

"She's an unknown," said one member of the *Tracy* production team. "She's not a creature of Hollywood. She's a street kid and she doesn't take any bull from anyone. In fact, she gets him hell."

The powerful Beatty — politically savvy, friend to presidents and potentates — puts up with it for a very simple reason. In today's Hollywood he needs Madonna a lot more than she needs him. Beatty may still be a big gun in movie circles, but there where the real power lies, Madonna Louise Louise is the one who's close. She's who's hot. She's Madonna.

In case Beatty must pass away, it was forcibly driven into his mind recently when he was dining with friends at a trendy Hollywood cafe. Short of cash to pay the bill, he reportedly told a young waitress he's the low-down charge account.

"Who are you?" asked the waitress. After telling the waitress who he was, she continued to stare at him blankly. Eventually another member of the party took care of the bill to avoid Beatty.

"We had to protect him," said a crew member. "Dick Tracy had



Warren Beatty (inset) and Madonna in 'Dick Tracy.'

Roxette's road to success

Hottest musical export from Sweden

STOCKHOLM, June 17, (Reuters): An American exchange student liked the sound of Sweden's Roxette so much that he took a tape of their domestic hit "The Look" home to Minneapolis and pestered his local radio station to play it.

Now Roxette's songs are being played by radio stations around the world and the group has become the hottest musical export Sweden has had since Abba left the international pop scene a decade ago.

Per Gessle, the group's songwriter and guitar player, described Roxette's road to success.

"It was an almost dizzying, like a Cinderella story." "The Look" spread from station to station and soon were heard across the United States," he said.

Gessle and Marie Fredriksson, a dynamic blonde singer who also writes for the group, led their band to the big time in the spring of 1989 when "The Look" soared to the top of the US charts.

A second hit, "Listen to Your Heart," reached number one only a few months later, in October 1989.

And earlier this month Roxette's latest song "It Must Have Been Love," receiving global exposure in the movie "Pretty Woman" featuring actor Richard Gere, has given Roxette their third number one hit in the US in about a year.

Gessle, 31, and Fredriksson, 32, are both from the southern Swedish town of Halmstad. Sometimes described by the Swedish media as looking like the British group The Eurythmics, the two played with different bands for several years prior to joining up with four others to create Roxette.

Roxette was discovered by the US music industry after Dean Cushman from Minneapolis took their first hit record to his hometown.

The success was almost instant.

"They called from EMI [the group's record company] when I was in the laundry room and told me that Marie and I were on the top of the list, before Madonna and the Stones and everybody else," Gessle told Sweden's daily Svenska Dagbladet.

Swedish groups have had few commercial successes since Abba disbanded. Roxette's "The Look" was the first Swedish song to reach the top of the US charts since Abba's "Dancing Queen" hit number one in 1977.

"Roxette is definitely Sweden's biggest group since Abba," said promotion manager Marie Dimberg at Sweden's EMI.

To Gessle, charts have always been



Marie Fredriksson of Roxette.

important. "I started arranging my records after the ranking in a Swedish radio programme at the age of seven. Even since then I've liked to keep track on lists, which has become big on various markets and what tendencies they represent," he said.

But he soon realised it would be more fun to play. "I was 17 and happened to put my hand around the neck of a guitar. I haven't let go since," he told Svenska Dagbladet.

Fredriksson says the group's success can be attributed to the chemistry between her and Gessle. But they are pair only on stage and not in private.

Said Dimberg: "That special something they have is in the combination

of 'per's songs and Marie's voice.'

Dimberg told Reuters the group was currently working on a new LP to follow their hit album "Look Sharp," and would tour the world after it was finished.

Fredriksson and Gessle continue to live in Sweden despite the country's cripplingly high taxes which have prompted many other artists to move to tax havens abroad.

"Gessle says money is not what drives him to write hits."

"Do I dare that what intrigues me most about music is the feeling to belong to it... money is fun, sure, but it is the feeling which gives the most," he said.

Muscle strength

Olds can have

CHICAGO, June 17, (AP): Pumping iron in the gymnasium does not necessarily mean gulping down vitamins.

Researchers say that giving frail 90-year-olds a regimen of high-intensity weight-training can dramatically increase their muscle strength and may help them avoid accidents associated with weak muscles.

The findings, reported in Wednesday's journal of the American Medical Association, are based on a study of 10 residents of a Boston nursing home, ages 86 to 96.

"Our findings suggest that a portion of the muscle weakness attributed to aging may be modifiable through exercise," wrote the researchers, led by Dr. Maria Fiatarone of the US Department of Agriculture's human nutrition research centre on aging at Tufts University in Boston.

"Because muscle strength decreases by perhaps 30 per cent to 40 per cent during the course of the adult life span, it is likely that at the end of training these subjects were stronger than they had been many years previously," the researchers wrote.

They called it the first study to examine the effects of weight-training in such an old population.

But Kim Herting, who works with the elderly as director of cardiovascular rehabilitation at the University of Chicago medical centre, said the number of subjects in the study was too small to apply to the general population.

"The last thing you want to have happen is have a group of 60- to 90-year-old people going nut and weight-lifting" because of the risk of injury, Ms. Herting said. She said elderly people who want to lift weights should consult a physician.

During the study, conducted in the summer of 1988, six women and four men participated in an eight-week weight-training programme that focused on the quadriceps muscle at the front of the thigh.

Three times a week, for eight weeks, the subjects performed leg lifts with weights for about 45 minutes a session.

By the end of the eight-week training period, the nine subjects who completed the study had at least doubled the amount of weight they could lift, and some had tripled and quadrupled that amount, said Ms. Fiatarone.

The average increase in single-leg exercise went from 16 pounds (7.2 kilograms) at the beginning to about 42 pounds (19 kilograms) by the end of the training, she said.

One 86-year-old man stopped after weeks because of pain at the site of a previous hernia. The rest completed the training with little pain and no injuries, the researchers said.

They called the results "remarkable" considering the subjects' age and poor health condition at the start of the study. Seven had arthritis, six had heart disease, and four had hypertension.

The subjects stopped weight-lifting at the end of the eight-week period, and four weeks later, they had lost about one-third of the strength they had gained, Ms. Fiatarone said.

A similar loss would be expected in a younger person, she said, noting that for the results to be lasting, weight-training must be done on a long-term basis.

Although the study focused only on leg muscles, Ms. Fiatarone said it can be assumed weight-training also strengthens upper-body muscles in the elderly.

He was a lust object to their mothers," said one diner. "Today's kids wouldn't cross the street to see him."

Nevertheless, Madonna was his first choice for the part of Breathless Mahoney, the 30s-style vamp who is all clapping dresses and kisses and who is famous for getting Tracy hot and bothered.

He is a typical Tracy/Breathless exchange from the film. In it Tracy is trying to get Breathless to kiss him.

Clad in tight-fitting black-and-white dresses and sporting short, curly, very blond hair, she looks like Marlene Dietrich in *The Blue Angel* (1930). She croons bawdy torch songs written specially for the film by Stephen Sondheim. At first the hard-racking Madonna was unimpressed. "What is this high-brow stuff?" she reportedly asked. But she grew to love the lavishly orchestrated numbers.

The showstopper, "I Always Get My Man" is the ultimate come-hither number; it burns up both the celluloid and Tracy's defenses.

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"Who are you?" asked the waitress. After telling the waitress who he was, she continued to stare at him blankly. Eventually another member of the party took care of the bill to avoid Beatty.

"We had to protect him," said a crew member. "Dick Tracy had

to look perfect and Madonna lights like a dream. There was definite concern about the way Warren looked."

As the film progressed, Beatty's looks became more and more an obsession. After the film was finally finished, they went back to the studio to reshoot some of Beatty's close-ups.

The wear and tear on his aging matinee-idol looks was aggravated by the fact that Madonna dragged him around the Hollywood club circuit night after night.

"He'd come in looking like hell," said a crew member. "The same thing used to happen with

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE — By Gary Larson



AGATHA CRUMPT — By Garry Trudeau



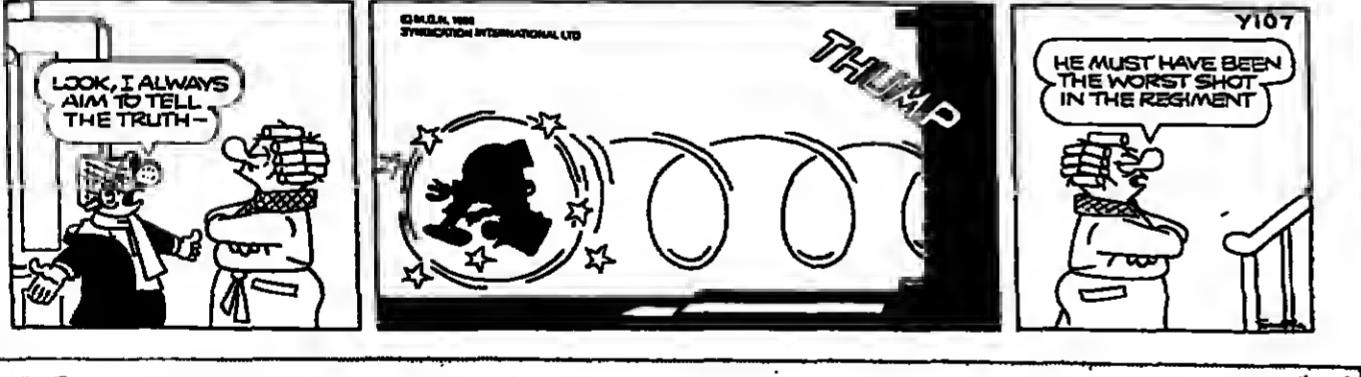
BEETLE BAILEY — By Charles M. Schulz



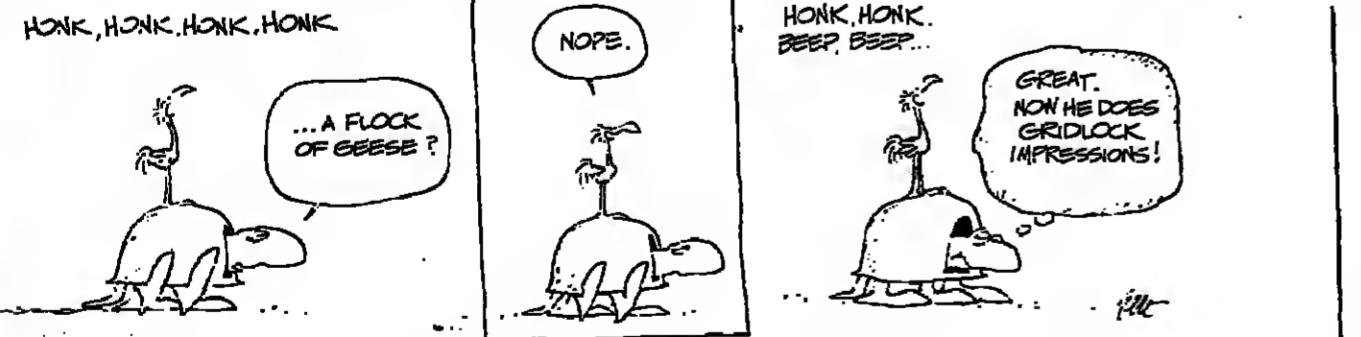
THE WIZARD OF OZ — By E. L. Segner & Johnny Hart



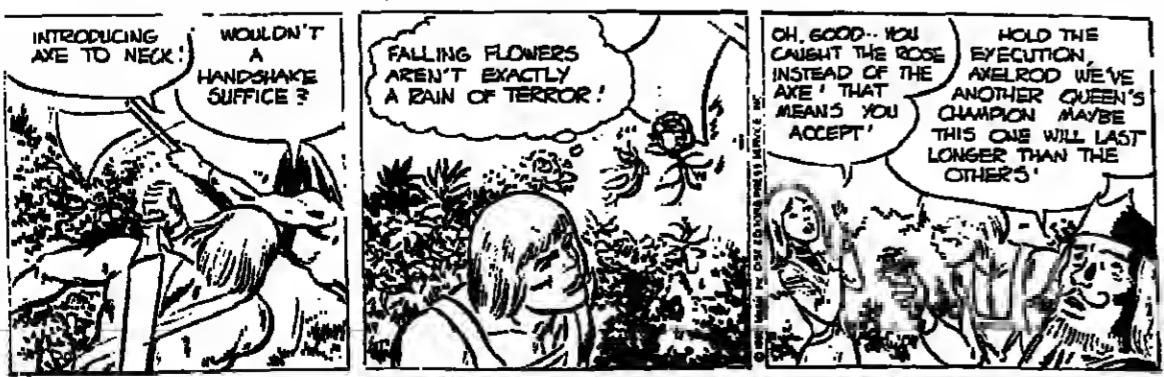
ANDY CAPP — By Garry Trudeau



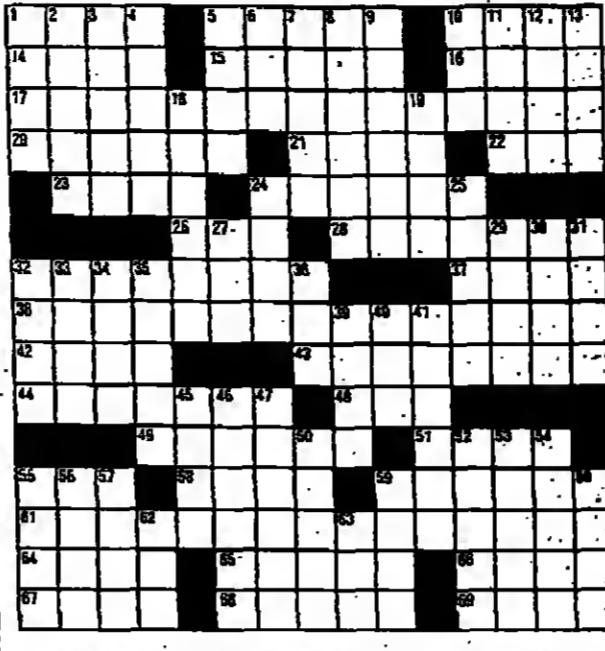
B.C. — By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN — By G. Forton & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

POINT COUNTERPOINT

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH

♦ Q 7 5

▼ 8

♦ A Q 10 9 7

♦ A K 10 6

WEST

♦ J. ♠ 10 6

▼ A J 10 9 7 6 4 ♠ K 5 2

♦ 6 ♠ 8 4 3 2

♦ Q J 9 4. ♠ 8 7 5 2

SOUTH

♦ A K 9 8 4 3 2

▼ Q 3

♦ K J 5

♦ 3

The bidding:

West

North

East

South

4. ♠

Pass

4. ♠

6. ♠

Pass

Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♠

There are some hands where only an expert can go down! If you don't believe us, study this deal from the Masters' Pairs Championship more than a quarter of a century ago and see if you can work out how declarer, a nationally-ranked player, was defeated in his spade slam after the lead of the ace of hearts.

Certainly, you can't quibble with

the auction, unless you feel that North might have checked for aces in case his side could make a grand slam. When it comes to the play, however, you will have to make up your own mind.

West led the ace of hearts and East dropped the king! On the heart continuation, declarer took the precaution to ruff with dummy's queen and was taken aback when East produced a second heart. Had declarer now claimed his contract, it is just possible the opponents would have conceded, but declarer's mind was working overtime.

Why had East falsecarded with the king of hearts? South concluded there could be only one explanation: East held all three missing trumps and was hoping to set up a trump trick for himself by inveigling declarer to ruff high.

Having worked that out, declarer was ready to produce his own brilliancy. He led a trump from the table and, when East produced the six, declarer confidently finessed the eight! The logic was almost irrefutable. Unfortunately, West won the trick with the jack-down one!

ACROSS
1 Dingle
5 Manila hemp
10 Gibson and Allen
14 Jai —
15 Berlin's "Call Me"
16 "Thanks" —
17 CHERRY
20 Extra tires
21 Detective Wolfe
22 Unused
23 Part of DED
24 Reef builders
26 Family man.
28 Unexpected hit
32 Pacifics
37 Leaping —
38 STRAWBERRY
42 Boxing match
43 Keyboard Instruments
44 Certifies
48 Double curve
49 Enjoy a book again
51 Flesionable unit
55 Physicians' org.
58 Paper measure
61 Wiped out
61 ORANGE
64 — go bragh
65 Dormouse
66 Pygmy
67 Actor
68 "Sesame Street" character
69 Playing cards
DDWN
1 Touches gently
2 Emulate Romeo and Juliet
3 Truman's birthplace
4 Astrological sign
5 Coach Stagg

6 Resounding sound
7 Hersey's "A Bell for —"
8 Provides food for a party
9 Ethically neutral
10 Wrestling area
11 North Carolina college
12 Word with Ranger or Eagle
13 Hodgepodge
14 Group of four
19 Platform for a pump? —
24 Skeleton's Kachidokhopper
25 Markets
27 Siam or Japan ending
29 Kind of moss
30 Resort town in Sicily
31 The Pied Piper's followers
32 Eastern bishop's title
33 Scheme
34 Show signs of petulance
35 Computer key
36 Relative of the Fox
39 Wind instrument part
40 Metric units: Abbr.
41 Port on the Adriatic
45 Dried
46 Soprano
47 Pinniped hunter
50 ... its like in May
52 Soothed
53 Native American
54 Bordeaux wine
55 Copicat
56 Simple
57 Related
59 Italian noble family
60 Secretary
62 Single
63 —diant: self-styled

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:
MALE TAILS IVES
AGAR ARRAN NEAP
JOHNDICKSONCARR
AGREE SERIALLY
SLUB REP
COP APIE SALTED
AHA NORMS LAVA
RAYMOND CHANDLER
OREO SEATO ERI
LARIAT ELAN SYN
LDO ENCE
ADDABBLE ONSCRE
OASHIELLHAMMETT
ALSO OILFO ATEE
MIAS HEAMS SASS



Open your mouth.



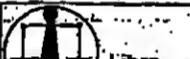
Aries

March 21 - April 19



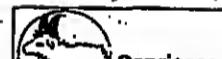
Cancer

June 21 - July 22



Libra

Sept 23 - Oct 22



Capricorn

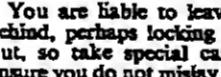
Dec 23 - Jan 19

You will tend to be rather disconcerting and should try to look on the bright side. You will not have time to do all you would like to do, but you should not miss out what you have to do. Avoid eating more than you know is good for you. Be fair.



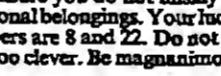
Taurus

April 21 - May 20



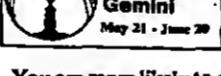
Leo

July 23 - Aug 22



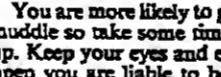
Gemini

May 21 - June 20



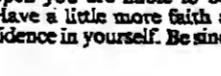
Virgo

Aug 23 - Sept 22



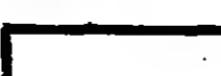
Sagittarius

Nov 23 - Dec 20



Scorpio

Oct 23 - Nov 21



Aquarius

Jan 20 - Feb 18

Do not allow your ease to spill over but do not suppress them either. Make sure you are sitting comfortably and that you get enough rest. Think of others as well as of yourself. Be resolute.

There will be some ups and downs but on you will also have good cause for satisfaction. There is nothing to be gained by waiting and seeing. You will be able to make some changes but do ensure that they are for the better. Be tactful.

You are more likely to leave a key behind, perhaps locking yourself out, so take special care. And ensure you do not mislay any personal belongings. Your lucky numbers are 8 and 22. Do not try to be too clever. Be magnanimous.

You should not be so ready to criticize other and do not be too haughty to accept criticism. Nor should you be too rigid to act upon good advice. If you insist on getting your own way you will be disappointed. Be glad.

You are more prone to mistakes and should be on the lookout for them. Avoid taking things for granted and do not expect too much from others. Nor should you rely on good luck to solve a problem for you. Be less negligent.

Instead of always thinking how much better off you could be, think of how much worse things might have been. Do not act on the spur of the moment, but on the other hand do not hesitate — if you do it could be too late. Avoid being a nuisance. Be reliable.

You will be able to do something to further your cultural interests. Take sufficient exercise, but do not go to the point where you exhaust yourself. A temptation to spend more than you know you should must be resisted. Be generous.

Instead of always thinking how much better off you could be, think of how much worse things might have been. Do not act on the spur of the moment, but on the other hand do not hesitate — if you do it could be too late. Avoid being a nuisance. Be reliable.

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Instead of always thinking how much better off you could be, think of how much worse things might



Ryan White (right), an 18-year-old Aids victim whose fight to attend school won him international publicity. (file photo)

Epidemic strains

By Peg Byron

NEW YORK, (UPI): The lifeblood of many Aids programmes is thousands of volunteers who continue to labour, sometimes until their own deaths, in a tragic world seemingly invisible to many US citizens.

But now, nearly a decade after the first case of Aids came to light, many dedicated activists are concerned about who will help meet the growing needs of the relentless epidemic.

Death continues to claim leaders and experienced activists from the ranks. For example, at the People With Aids Coalition, all but two of the nine founding members have died over the past five years.

"Aids is part of everything I do. It feels overwhelming," said Heidi Dorow, 23, who devotes about 20 hours a week to New York's Aids coalition to unleash power, known as "Act Up."

"It's like, my life. It takes up most of my free time," said Dorow. "It's so funny to call it volunteer work. It's activism, gay and lesbian visibility activism."

A seven-year volunteer with the nation's largest Aids service group, Gay Men's Health Crisis, Jon Knowles says his involvement was triggered by tragedy in his personal life but unexpectedly made him happier as a gay man.

Knowles, 46, explained: "It just renewed by faith in human beings and made me more accepting of myself. I was taught that gay men are sissies, selfish, arrogant, miserable people. That has not been my experience."

Joseph Ripple, co-ordinator for GMHC's 1,700 volunteers, said New York's volunteer effort appears to be thriving despite the adversity.

"It's true it's falling down in San Francisco, but it's not falling down in New York," he said.

About 500 people regularly attend the boisterous Monday meetings held by New York's Act Up, which has spawned chapters in two dozen cities, including Atlanta, Austin, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Los Angeles, New Orleans, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Seattle, even London, Paris and Sydney.

But battle fatigue still is taking its toll. Many activists became involved after such drugs as azt were found to extend the lives of Aids patients, raising optimism. Now they are watching people die despite the drugs.

"I think Keith Haring's death made it real for a lot of people who wanted to believe they wouldn't die of Aids," said one activist, referring to a well-known New York artist who died earlier this year despite such treatments.

Act Up member Mark Harrington wryly observed: "Maybe what we need to do is buy a little island in the Caribbean for tired activists to go and recuperate."

New York's pool of active volunteers is reportedly holding steady at about 3,000 to 5,000 for everything from GMHC's comprehensive effort to smaller support groups and unusual patient services such as gourmet food delivery and pet care.

But already, GMHC, has waiting lists of up to six weeks for people with Aids needing help, and the agency is uncertain if it can continue growing with the epidemic.

By last month, there were 26,606 people reported with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome in New York, the largest concentration among more than 130,000 people with Aids nationally.

"I think one of the differences between New York and San Francisco is New York has a higher absolute number of cases, but San Francisco has a higher number per capita," said GMHC spokeswoman Carissa Cunningham.

The ongoing shock and trauma there is even more intense than bere. They have entire neighbourhoods and communities being wiped away," she said.

A looming dilemma is whether dedication born largely from the Gay Civil Rights Movement will survive the second wave of Aids, made up of intravenous drug users, with the most blacks, hispanics and women who catch the deadly illness.

By Rebecca Kolberg

WASHINGTON, (UPI): Just a few years ago, the big question surrounding development of a cure or a vaccine for Aids was, "when?" Now, leading Aids researchers say the question has shifted to "When will it be done?"

But barring a scientific miracle or a major trick up the sleeve of polio vaccine pioneer Dr Jonas Salk, the "when" apparently will not be in time for the Sixth International Aids Conference in San Francisco, and may also come far too late to help hundreds of thousands of people already infected.

"I am not anticipating any major breakthroughs... If anyone is looking at the conference with the idea that a cure is going to be released at that time, that won't happen," said Dr Mervyn Silverman, president of the American Foundation for Aids Research, a co-sponsor of the meeting.

About 12,000 scientists, health care workers and Aids activists from around the world are expected to attend the June 20-24 conference, considered the premier research meeting on Aids. Another co-sponsor, the University of California-San Francisco, a major research centre in the battle against Aids, accepted about half of some 4,900 scientific papers submitted world-wide to the conference.

The early years of the Aids epidemic, which first emerged in 1981, were marked by major scientific strides — the discovery of the Aids-causing human immunodeficiency virus or HIV, creation of a blood test to detect HIV and development of azt, the first drug to slow the disease, which destroys the body's ability to fight infection.

But since azt's approval in 1987, Aids research has grabbed fewer headlines and the advances have been less dramatic, slowly building upon each other step by step.

Dr Robert Gallo, who co-discovered the Aids virus with Luc Montagnier in 1983, told the recent Act Against Aids Benefit that the scientific struggle to beat the disease has "somewhat plateaued, research is getting increasingly difficult."

"Drugs are slow, slower than anticipated. We have to do a lot more," Gallo said.

To date, azt or zidovudine remains the only government-approved drug to directly attack the Aids virus, which the World Health Organisation estimates has infected at least six million people world-wide.

But US Food and Drug Administration spokesman Brad Stone said he has seen no plateau in the pace at which companies are submitting potential treatments for Aids to the agency for approval.

About 100 drugs to treat Aids and the ailments that kill many of those infected, such as pneumonia and rare cancers, are being tested in humans, and about 30 of those drugs have already cleared early safety tests, Stone said.

Although Aids activists have accused scientists of taking a "cold and calculated approach" that moves too slowly to help people infected with the deadly virus, Dr Anthony Fauci, head of National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said: "The pain and suffering touches us all... We will not rest until this terrible epidemic is under control."

In the United States, Europe and Asia, the Aids virus, which is spread by sexual or blood-to-blood contact, has primarily affected homosexual men and intravenous drug users. But in parts of Africa, the deadly illness strikes men and women about equally and is widespread throughout urban society.

During the 1990s, Fauci said biomedical science probably will be able to render Aids a "controllable, chronic disease," much like diabetes of haemophilia.

"I think the next year or two are going to be quite exciting in terms of things (Aids drugs) brought into the clinic,"

LANCE LITZ

Special Report on Aids

No cure, vaccine around the corner



A Romanian baby soon to die from Aids. Some 60 per cent of babies tested for Aids were found to be seropositive, showing symptoms in Romania. Doctors blame the alarmingly high figures on low hygiene in hospitals, re-used hypodermic needles and Aids transmission during transfusions. (file photo)

More volunteers needed

By John M. Leighty

SAN FRANCISCO, (UPI): Hit hardest by the Aids epidemic in the United States, San Francisco has been thrust into the forefront in the battle against the deadly disease since the epidemic began.

More than 5,700 of the 740,000 residents of this picturesque city have died from Aids since the first cases began appearing a decade ago, and another 8,700 have been diagnosed with the illness and as many as 35,000 residents may be infected with the virus that destroys the body's immune system, leaving victims defenseless against devastating infections.

"I think there's a real tiredness that exists," said Holly Smith, who works at the Shanti Project, one of the many agencies that have sprung up to help care for Aids patients.

"I think now in San Francisco we are dealing with a certain amount of Aids overwhelm and grief and loss that is real. It seems like it's been a long haul," said Smith.

said Dr Robert Yarchoan, an Aids drug expert at the Cancer Institute. "A large number of things should start to bear fruit over the next couple years."

Long-awaited preliminary reports of human tests of the experimental anti-Aids drugs azidothymidine or azido and dideoxycoformycin or d4t will be presented at the San Francisco meeting.

In the past year, several large pharmaceutical firms have designed a new breed of drugs that appear to have the power to attack the Aids virus on a different front. The designer compounds block protease, an enzyme the Aids virus needs to reproduce.

Another drug class to watch is the so-called tbo derivatives, compounds that closely resemble tranquilizing drugs that a Belgian team recently found to be extremely potent blockers of Aids virus

"But that's not to say there's not a phenomenal amount of energy out there," she said, noting that some 5,000 volunteers have come forward to help in all aspects of services since the epidemic started.

With a major conference on Aids beginning June 20, homosexual and lesbian activists are using the occasion to protest immigration policies that restrict entry visas to the United States for homosexuals and those carrying the Aids virus.

Dozens of San Francisco-area groups are boycotting the sixth International Conference on Aids to protest the immigration policies, but there are mixed feelings because the activists are not against the conference itself, which is attracting health experts from around the world.

"The boycott is not like a strike, intended to shut the conference down. No one wants to do that," said John James, editor of Aids Treatment News. "The boycott's main purpose, beyond bringing pressure to change US policy, is to make the statement that the entry restrictions are unacceptable, and here it has succeeded."

The day after the conference begins, an annual Gay Freedom Day parade is expected to draw 100,000 participants — from the bizarre to the political.

One of the parade's themes will be the need for more money to fight Aids in its early stages and to provide help to those disabled by the disease, which has killed 80,500 people nationwide.

"There is a certain level of frustration and disappointment that funding cycles have not been appropriately matched. There's not enough money yet for education and support services," Smith said.

Despite the community response, she said, at Shanti there are now some 100 Aids sufferers on a waiting list for volunteers to give them practical and emotional support as they fight for their lives.

reproduction in the test-tube. As of February, neither protease blockers nor tbo compounds had been tried in humans.

At the Aids conference, many people will be watching for results of early human tests of a genetically engineered therapy called CD4-IGG, which combines antibodies with a synthetic version of the chemical door that the Aids virus uses to invade cells.

It is hoped the hybrid will spur an immune reaction and last longer than plain soluble CD4, which, although able to sop up the Aids virus in the test tube, has shown a disappointingly short lifespan in the human bloodstream, limiting its practical use.

The upcoming year should also mark the start of human tests of another important twist on CD4 therapy — CD4-PE, which combines the CD4 molecular

receptor with a bacterial toxin called pseudomonas exotoxin. In the test-tube, the hybrid delivers a mighty one-two punch, mopping up infected cells and killing them with the toxin.

"In theory, this could clear the body of any HIV-infected cell if it could reach it," Dr Margaret Johnston, head of Aids Drug Development at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. However, she notes it is unlikely CD4-PE would be able to cross from the bloodstream into the brain.

Both Johnston and Yarchoan said they know of no drug, even among compounds in the earliest stages of development, that appears to have the power to completely cure an Aids infected person, if a cure is defined as eliminating every last trace of HIV from the body.

But Yarchoan noted it may not be

necessary to wipe out all signs of HIV to prevent infected people from developing life-threatening diseases. "There are many viruses we can live with without problems," he said.

If such a "cure" is achieved by giving a patient a variety of drugs over a long period of time, Yarchoan said researchers must be alert to drug resistance and toxic reactions, a problem also faced by many cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy. Further studies of patients who show signs of developing azt resistance are likely to draw much attention at the Aids conference, he said.

The man who has snared the interest, if not exactly the admiration, of Aids vaccine researchers is Salk, who is using much the same approach he used to develop his landmark polio vaccine in the 1950s in an attempt to vanquish the Aids virus.

Salk stole the show at last year's Aids conference in Montreal by announcing that his vaccine, which employs Aids virus that has been killed, had prevented Aids infection in chimpanzees, and showed hints of slowing disease progression in humans already infected with the Aids virus.

Since then, the flamboyant researcher has not presented further results of the human tests, although he recently received government permission for nationwide testing of the post-exposure vaccine in HIV-infected people. His research also stirred up controversy when Los Angeles Archbishop Roger Mahony sent a letter to 2,900 healthy priests and nuns asking them to consider volunteering for the Salk Aids vaccine because they were extremely unlikely to be infected with the Aids virus prior to vaccination.

However, the vaccine could potentially backfire and actually cause the deadly illness if all the virus is not completely killed, a danger that most researchers think would make it too dangerous for widespread use in healthy people.

Theoretically, one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of Aids would be through vaccination. But because the Aids virus is so complex and mutates rapidly, experts at last year's meeting predicted any vaccine is at least five years away.

Attracting less publicity than Salk's work, but probably of greater value in developing a way of protection the average person from Aids, is a growing body of evidence that shows healthy monkeys' and chimpanzees can be immunized against Aids-like infections, even when only a small, non-infective piece of "subunit" of the virus is used.

Also encouraging is a recent human study at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine that showed a subunit vaccine can kill Aids-infected cells like a vaccine made from whole live virus. In the past, researchers thought only vaccines made of whole, live virus, which are risky because they may cause the disease they are intended to prevent, could trigger such killing.

In addition to killing HIV-infected cells, the ideal Aids vaccine should trigger the immune system to produce antibodies that can kill free-floating virus in the blood stream. Preliminary results show some subunit vaccines spur such a response.

Dr Dani Bolognesi, an Aids vaccine expert at Duke University School of Medicine in Durham, North Carolina, said the recent animal findings, coupled with the early results in humans, indicate an effective Aids vaccine will likely consist of a "cocktail" of various HIV subunits.

"There is much more enthusiasm for this (Aids vaccine research) than there has been, more interest and more investment. With a little luck, maybe we will be able to shorten the time it takes to develop a good Aids vaccine. Money is never enough by itself, we always need luck too," Bolognesi said.

Sounds great

Peter Pan — new darker Broadway version

By G. Lather Whitington

HOLLYWOOD, (UPI): Cathy Rigby became the first US woman to win a gold medal in the World Gymnastic Championships in 1970. Now she's aiming for Broadway in a new, darker version of the musical *Peter Pan*.

The show, scheduled to hit New York in December, opened at the Pantages Theatre in Hollywood last week as part of a national tour.

Actress Mary Martin won a Tony and an Emmy for bringing an incredible voice to the role in

that other *Peter Pans* haven't (done) and won't do," said Rigby, a 37-year-old mother of four who calls herself a "natural tomboy."

The 35th anniversary production of *Pan* also features dance numbers by bands of Pirates and Indians in Never Land as well as an alligator with glowing eyes.

Broadway veteran Stephen Hannan, nominated for a Tony for his portrayal of Growl in the original *Cats*, is the evil, hilarious and completely original interpretation of Captain Hook.

"Tinkerbell's magic dust is potent stuff."

"Our effects are more daring. I'll spin and dip and do things

that other *Peter Pans* haven't (done) and won't do," said Rigby, a 37-year-old mother of four who calls herself a "natural tomboy."

The reviews were good, so we said, why not a national tour," she said.

Co-produced by her husband, Tom McCoy, the show opened last December in Boston.

While the storyline remains intact, there are some elements of this show that are different.

"What we're trying to do in this show is to give the audience a darker, more dramatic side of Peter Pan," Rigby said.

Peter's unwillingness to grow up is something to which Rigby can relate.



Sylvester Stallone: funny role

Folk, African

Various Artists, *Urban Africa, Five Hits Of The Townships* (Polygram, 841 470-41).

Miriam Makeba, *Weela*, (Mercury, 838 208-4).

From the indignation aroused by the apartheid policies of the South African government comes a call for unity among that country's black majority. And the rallying cry to abolish the racist policies mandated by the white government is not only shouted by black leaders like Nelson Mandela. It is a cause that has made its way for decades into the ethnic music of the black Southern African people.

Urban Africa — Five Hits Of The Townships and Miriam Makeba's *Weela* paint a picture of the ethnic and tribal diversity of Southern Africa. Sung in English, various Africa dialects

Kerala girls to tour US



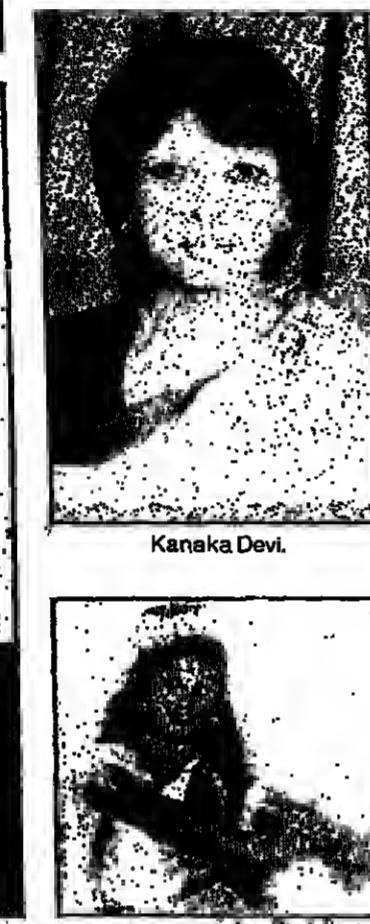
Bobby Krishnan.



The ten dancers who will tour the US later this month



Vineeta Vasudevan.



Sudha Pillai.

Sudarshan Kala Mandir invited

A GROUP of Indian classical dancers from Kuwait are to go on a tour of the United States later this month. The 10 girls, all students of the Sudarshan Kala Mandir, have been invited to take part in the annual National Convention of Keralites (NCK) in North America.

All Kerala groups in North America come under NCK, which represents the Malayalee community living in Canada and US. Sudarshan Kala Mandir, one of the first classical dance schools to be set up by Kanaka Devi, was invited by the American association.

Several Indian girls have studied dance from Kanaka Devi, who is a trained under gurus in Mysore, Madras and Kerala. She also represents her native Kerala in several youth festivals in India. In Kuwait, she has taken an active part in teaching dance and frequently puts on dance shows at the IAC.

Kanaka Devi has selected 10 best students from over 100 children training under her. The girls participated in a recently held dance contest and won in all the seven categories of the competition. They are: Bobby Krishnan, Sudha Pillai, Vineeta Vasudevan, Reshma Ramankutty, Sunila Philipose, Sugra Rajgopal, Bindu Thomas, Bindu Rajappan, Reena Michael and Archana Nair.

They will be performing in four US cities—Orlando, Miami, Houston and Dallas—before an estimated 5,000 people.

Their programme comprises both Bharata Natyam and Mohiniyattam dance numbers.

More than 5,000 Keralites are expected to attend, including Indian Minister K.P. Umnikrishnan, former minister M.M. Jacob, and a host of other eminent personalities from Kerala.

The annual convention, which this year will be held in Orlando from June 29 to July 2, also marks the bi-centennial of the arrival of the first Indian to the US.

This is the first time that Keralites from Kuwait are participating in the event.

THE English School, Fahheel, recently held its annual graduation ceremony for Junior 4 students. A variety show was held by the students. School director Ibrahim Shuhaiher welcomed Education Ministry officials, including Dr Yacoub Al Sharrah, assistant under-secretary for private education. British Ambassador Michael Weston and a large number of dignitaries were also present. It was announced that from the next academic year 1990/91, the school will be introducing Senior One classes.



British Ambassador Michael Weston, Dr Yacoub Al Sharrah and Ibrahim Shuhaiher and other guests pictured during the rendition of the national anthem.



Dr Al Sharrah shakes hands with a student before giving her the certificate.



Some of the students.



Japanese travel agents pictured during their recent Gulf visit organised by Cathay Pacific.

Travel brief

A GROUP of leading Japanese travel agents, who specialise in business to the Middle East, spent several days recently in Bahrain, Dubai and Sharjah on a study tour sponsored by Cathay Pacific to Japan. The group visited a number of scenic and historic places in the three destinations to learn about travel potential first hand. The group also attended a seminar in Bahrain organised by Cathay's regional office at which prominent Japanese expatriates living on the island briefed them on social and economic aspects of the region. The group inspected hotels and shopping centres and were given information on the extensive facilities available to travellers visiting Bahrain and the UAE. Accompanying the group throughout their stay was Masahiko Inoue, Cathay's Bahrain-based Japanese sales representative for the Middle East and India.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 9.00 Holy Quran
- 9.15 Nabi Wa Saleh: cartoon serial
- 9.40 Ifrah Ya Simsim
- 10.10 Good Morning
- 10.30 Ahlam Al Zahira: Arabic serial; part 9, featuring Majdi Wahab, Karima Mukhtar, Madiba Hamdi, Ibrahim Al Shami
- 11.15 News Summary
- 12.00 Al Rasheed Al Barad: Arabic serial; part 9; featuring Mahmood Saeed, Shafiqah Al Tall, Fuad Al Shomili.
- 1.20 Songs
- 1.30 Sanavar: cartoon serial
- 2.00 News in Arabic
- 2.15 Ailab Bu Jassoum: Kuwaiti serial; ep. 9; featuring Hussain Qattan, Abdul Wahab Dosari, Monsa Al Hazin

- 3.35 Shiqawah Fi Sabean: Arabic feature film, starring Kamal Shammawi, Hala Fuad, Hussein Sharbini.
- 5.30 Sally: cartoon serial
- 6.00 Mama Anisa Wa Sighar
- 7.30 Songs
- 8.15 Quran and Science: presented by Dr Ahmad Shawki Ibrahim

- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.45 Rajul Wal Qataar: Arabic serial; last episode; starring Farouk Fisbawi, Hala Sudqi

- 11.15 Nukhta Alai Harf: variety show, prepared and presented by Marwan Sawaf.
- 12.15 News Summary
- 12.20 World News Via Satellite
- 12.35 Holy Quran/Closedown



Alaf Shuaib stars in Nukhta Alai Harf, KTV 1

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran

6.10 Hair Bear Bunch: cartoons

6.30 Animals of Africa: "The Impalas"

7.00 Rovio Report: weekly roundup of Arab and world news

7.30 Charles in Charge: "Dr. Drem Warning": Charles wins the "student of the year" award and moves to the college dormitory; Comedy

8.00 News in English

8.40 Around the World: takes you to a whirlwind global tour

9.00 The Equalizer: "The Mystery of Manon": Part 2. While Robert McCall looks for his missing son, a Russian agent comes on the scene. Starring: Ed Woodward

10.00 You Can't Take It With You: "Alice

Loves Tiny". Alice falls in love and it seems she is serious about Tiny until they fall out over a trivial matter. Comedy.

10.30 Classic Colour Movies: "The Hook": Starring Kirk Douglas, Robert Walker.

12.00 News in Brief

12.10 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

Sports Channel

Channel 6/45

9.00 pm Sports Review
10.00 World Cup: Romania vs Argentina (Live)

12.10 World Cup: Cameroon vs Soviet Union (recording)

Please note that Kuwait Television programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

Educational

British Council, 2 Al Arabi St, Mansouriya.

D'Assale Association celebrates 10th anniversary

June 30: The initial membership campaign of the Pakistan Arts Circle (veterans) will end on June 30 to prepare for elections of a new executive committee. All Pakistanis are invited to join the PAC by completing the membership form. PAC membership is open to any Pakistani wishing to join the group at any time. For details call: 5716388; 5631815; 4843578; 2414570.

Pakistanis Welfare Society

June 19: 5.30 pm. The monthly meeting of Pakistanis Welfare Society will be held at the residence of Liaquat Ali. Members are requested to come on time.

Festival on Ice

June 18-24: Ice Capades present Festival on Ice at the Ice Skating Rink. Two shows daily. Afternoon show features Barbie Doll. The evening show features figure skating championships and exhibition show. Twenty world class skaters promise family entertainment. For reservations Tel. 2530000/2533000.

Overseas students party

June 27: 6 pm. British Council will hold a reception for all students who will be studying in the UK this autumn. The party will be for all students who have been offered a place at any university, polytechnic or college in Britain.

A set of briefing notes will be given to each student. Refreshments will be served. Students going to the UK are asked to call in to collect free admission cards from Kate or Lix in the

Education Office, British Council, 2 Al Arabi St, Mansouriya.

Al Mawardi Open-Air Cafeteria

open from 6 pm to midnight.

Al Gandul Grill Garden: open after 6 pm; grilled food.

Friday brunch: 12 noon to 3 pm; ship discovery tour, entertainment for children and cartoon-strip characters.

At the Messilah Beach

Al Mubarakah: open around the clock; seafood promotion on Wednesdays, 7 pm; Fridays — Middle Eastern cuisine.

Al Jawharah: Thursday special — special menu; music by Rainbow Band.

Al Berdounah: BBQ on Thursday in beach-garden restaurant; Lebanese food.

At the Meridien La Brasserie

Thai Corner: Saturday night.

Cowboy Night: Every Sunday, live country music.

Chinese Corner: Monday night feature.

Greek Taverna: Mediterranean magic with bousouki music.

Indonesian corner: on Wednesdays; food prepared in front of

Jazz Night: New Orleans atmosphere on Thursday night.

Friday: Oriental luocheon buffet; family day.

Versailles: Business lunch; and a la carte dinner.

At the Holiday Inn

Al Ahmad Coffee Shop: breakfast, lunch and dinner buffets — Continental and Oriental cuisine.

Al Andalus Supper Club: Arabic Nite, every Thursday; Arabic band entertains guests.

Friday Family Luneh: Disney fantasy on Fridays.

At the SAS

Bistro: Sunday/Wednesday — pasta night; Italian music.

Peacock Room: Chinese cuisine; lunch and dinner.

Al Boom: Kuwaiti experience; charcoal grilled food, plus mezze buffet.

Clock snack bar — burgers, french fries, etc.

At the Plaza:

Al Daliyah Coffee Shop: international cuisine; open buffet plus menu.

Lolowood Corner: snacks and refreshing summer drinks.

Marco Polo: Italian ambience and cuisine, particularly pasta.

Cinema

British Council

June 16/17: 6.30 pm. "84 Charing Cross Road", a universally acclaimed film based on the true story of Helene Hanff (Anne Bancroft) will be shown.

It tells the story of a 20-year love affair with the staff of a second-hand bookshop. For reservations call 2515152; 2533204; 2533227.

CINEMA TODAY

- Starring: Waheeda Rehman, Sanjeev Kumar
- Fahheed Open-Air
- Raspy Pyar Ke (Hindi)
- Al Fahadh
- Dream team
- Al Jaha
- Panic in the Casino
- Granada
- The Untouchables
- Sulafikhat
- Calibre 357
- Al Jeeb
- Nair Sahab (Malayalam)
- Starring: Mammootty
- Alhamra Drive-In
- Seven Red Berets

PRAYERS

Fajr	3.13 am
Zahr	11.49
Asr	3.23 pm
Maghreb	6.50
Isha	8.22

- All entries for the What's On column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursdays, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

Shilton marks record appearance with faultless display

England hold Dutch to draw



Walker (centre) confronts Gullit (left) as van Basten sweeps wide. (Reuter wirephoto)

CAGLIARI, June 17. (Reuter): England and European champions the Netherlands produced a match of high quality but no goals yesterday and so left World Cup Group F wide-open and without any clear favourite for the second round.

Both teams, meeting in the finals for the first time, played with greater style and imagination than they showed in their previous outings against Ireland and Egypt respectively, but the outcome was a tactical stalemate.

England unexpectedly introduced a five-man defensive system for the first time and used the quick Des Walker to mark Marco van Basten, a move which negated the Dutch striker's usual threat.

As a result, the Netherlands were rarely able to penetrate the England defence in which goalkeeper Peter Shilton marked his world record 120th international appearance with a faultless display and several excellent saves.

The Dutch defence was only rarely troubled after the early stages, but England could at least claim to have missed the best opening of the night when the normally deadly Gary Lineker was denied a chance created by John Barnes early in the second half.

Lineker, top scorer in the 1986 finals in Mexico, and Stuart Pearce, also had goals disallowed, but had England won, it would have been an injustice as the Dutch contributed much to a fine game.

For England's supporters,

involved in a series of violent incidents before the match and kept in their seats long after the final whistle, there was some satisfaction in having seen their team enjoy the best of an invigorating and skilful game.

But there were loud jeers at the end when Yugoslav referee Zoran Petrovic disallowed Lineker's injury-time strike. His free-kick beat goalkeeper Hans van Breukelen but it had been adjudged indirect.

The Dutch, particularly in the second half, produced some fine football which showed signs that they may yet be capable of recovering the form which carried them to the European title in 1988.

With Rudi Gullit at the centre of nearly everything they did and his AC Milan team-mates Van Basten and the outstanding Frank Rijkaard also performing with great purpose, the Netherlands could easily have snatched victory had Shilton not been at his most alert.

After a combative opening spell, the Dutch probably enjoyed most of the possession, but failed to break down the central English defensive trio of Walker, Terry Butcher and Mark Wright.

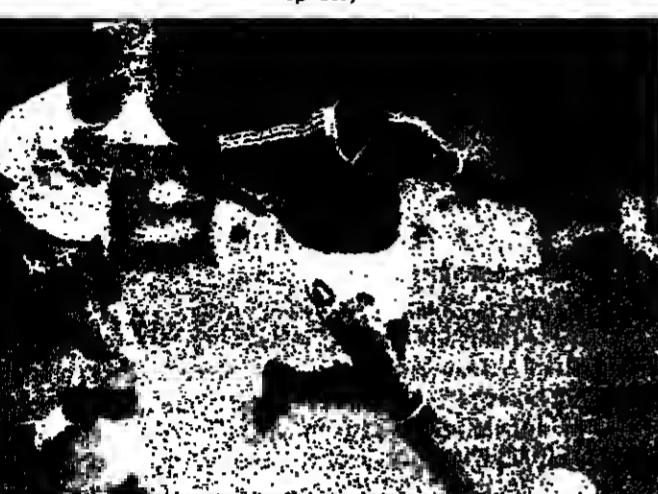
England captain Bryan Robson, who was later substituted by David Platt, flashed an early header wide of the post and both Chris Waddle and John Barnes had good moments.

But in the end England's failure to win was down to Lineker.

England's Paul Gascoigne dribbles the ball past Van Basten. (Reuter wirephoto)



Lineker (right) watches as the ball heads towards the Dutch goal. The goal was disallowed. (Reuter wirephoto)



Mark Wright (left) hangs on to Gullit's shirt. (Reuter wirephoto)



England's Paul Gascoigne dribbles the ball past Van Basten. (Reuter wirephoto)

Shilton keeps another 'clean sheet'

CAGLIARI, June 17. (Reuter): England goalkeeper Peter Shilton yesterday celebrated his world record 120th international appearance in customary style — by not conceding a goal.

Shilton, 40, played with all his usual authority and excellence in the goalless World Cup Group F draw with the Netherlands, but was naturally disappointed England did not win.

"For me personally, it was a big game," he said. "I remember I got my 100th cap for England when we lost 3-1 against Holland two years ago in the European Championship finals."

"Tonight I did not want the same kind of result. We got a draw, but it would have been much better for me if we had won."

The England goalkeeper, who made his debut against East Germany in 1970, refused to comment on suggestions that the players were distracted by the violent incidents in Cagliari which preceded the game.

He said: "We came here to play football. The people who came and caused trouble are not really football fans and have nothing to do with the World Cup."

Cameroon to show no mercy to Soviets

BARI, June 17. (Reuter): Cameroon's Russian manager Valery Nepomniachy will show no mercy to the Soviet Union when the two sides meet in a World Cup Group B match tomorrow.

Cameroon rank outsiders at the start of the tournament, are sure of a place in the second round after beating Argentina 1-0 and Romania 2-1, while the Soviet Union, once one of the most favoured teams, are likely to be eliminated after two defeats.

Defender Jules Onana and forward Emmanuel Mabouang slotted in well in their place, although Nepomniachy said the team were not at their best.

He also has to decide whether 38-year-old Roger Milla should play from the start after scoring twice after coming on as a substitute against Romania. But he is likely to keep him on the substitutes' bench to save his legs for the second half.

"We planned it before the (Romania) match. All the players knew he would play in the second half for at least 30 minutes," Nepomniachy said.

The optimism and confidence at Cameroon's hilltop retreat outside the southern city of Bari, where the match will be played, is a sharp contrast to the cloud of despondency hanging over the Soviet team.

Coach Valery Lobanovsky made wholesale changes after his team's lacklustre performance in the 2-0 defeat by Romania in Bari, but they were also beaten 2-0 by Argentina in Naples.

West Germans go for clean sweep

MILAN, June 17. (Reuter): West Germany, who set a blistering pace in their first two matches, aim to complete a hat-trick of first-round victories against Colombia on Tuesday in their impressive challenge for World Cup glory.

The West Germans are already sure of a place in the second round after overwhelming Yugoslavia 4-1 and the United Arab Emirates 5-1 and look in a class of their own in Group D.

Colombia achieved an uninspiring 2-0 win over the UAE and were beaten 1-0 by Yugoslavia but the West Germans will not take their opponents lightly.

Team chief Franz Beckenbauer has no intention of relaxing the relentless pressure which has marked West Germany out as the side the others will need to beat to win the trophy.

"We cannot afford to be beaten by Colombia. Colombia is an excellent team," he said, judging them better than Yugoslavia for stretches of their last game.

"We have certainly played convincingly. But we must recognise that we haven't played the strongest teams. We must not be casual."

Lobanovsky blamed bad refereeing after Argentine captain Diego Maradona's outstretched arm appeared to deny the Soviet Union a goal.

But there is no hiding the fact that his team are a pale shadow of the one who reached the second round in the Mexico World Cup in 1986 and were runners-up in the 1988 European Championship.

"Every player is capable of playing better and so far they have not shown their true potential," Alexander Turkmanov, head of the Soviet team delegation, said.

He denied rumours of dissent among the disappointed team.

"Lobanovsky is the chief trainer. Everyone trusts him and respects him," Turkmanov said.

Lobanovsky has not said who will play against Cameroon. Romania have to lose and the Soviet Union need to win by a wide margin to have any chance of making the second round as one of the best third-placed teams.

Lobanovsky is again likely to play goalkeeper Alexander Uvarov and midfielders Andrei Zygmuntovic. They were brought in against Argentina.

Kick-off: Monday, 10.00 pm (Kuwait time)

Dope tests

ROME, June 17. (Reuter): A total of 64 players were tested for doping in the first 16 World Cup matches, Fifa said yesterday. None of the tests was positive.

Under Fifa regulations two players from each team are selected at random for testing.

Argentine captain Diego Maradona was among the first players to be picked at random, Fifa said.

Italians seek win against Czechs to stay at home

ROME, June 17. (Reuter): Italy will be looking for goals against Czechoslovakia on Tuesday, to boost morale, reassure their fans and remain at the capital's Olympic stadium for the next round of the World Cup.

After wins against Austria and the United States, both teams have secured a second round berth in the tournament.

But Czechoslovakia, who demolished the United States 5-1, have a superior goal difference and if they win or draw will finish winners of Group A, playing their second round match in Rome.

Italy would have to travel south east to Bari, losing the advantage of a huge crowd and a venue that can overawe even opponents with the stoniest hearts.

"We will do all we can to finish in first place," Italian manager Azeglio Vicini said. "Though we have made logistical arrangements if we don't."

Italy also need a win — preferably a substantial one — to silence critics who slammed them for their narrow 1-0 victory over the Americans.

The favourites' strikers, especially Gianluca Vialli who missed a penalty against the United States, appear to be suffering from a goal jinx.

Vialli took the blame for the poor performance against the Americans. "When I missed the penalty, I heard 26 million television spectators telling me where to go," he said.

"We became very disorganized after I missed — the criticisms were all justified."



Johnson (right) is hugged by McCall after the former scored. (Reuter wirephoto)



Scottish Gordon Durie (right) outwits a Swedish defender. (Reuter wirephoto)

Robson may miss crucial Egypt clash

CAGLIARI, June 17. (Reuter): Injured captain Bryan Robson is likely to miss England's crucial World Cup Group F clash with Egypt on Thursday.

Robson, who missed training last week because of a stubbed toe on his right foot, strained his left heel during England's 0-0 draw with the Netherlands yesterday.

Manager Bobby Robson said today: "He is our only major problem and he will not be training for the next few days. That makes him very doubtful for the Egypt game and I am thinking of giving him a rest."

He said the England captain suffered the injury to his left Achilles tendon because he was trying to protect his right foot in the way he ran and had overcompensated for it. "It is a common thing," Robson said.

England's only other injury worry today was defender Paul Parker, who strained a wrist during the second half of the game against the Dutch.

Robson said he was pleased with the team performance overall, but did not confirm that he would stick with the five-man defensive system he introduced for the match.

Stars feel at home in World Cup

ROME, June 17. (Reuter): The World Cup finals in Italy will go down as the first in which almost all of the tournament's stars were playing at home.

Many of the talents who emerge at the finals may soon be packing their bags to take up residence in the peninsula, too.

Lothar Matthaeus and Rudi Voeller, joint top scorers so far with three goals each, are among a cast of soccer millionaires on parade in Italy who are already well tutored in the art of eating spaghetti.

The West Germans, in the pay of Inter Milan and AS Roma respectively, are just two of 31 foreign players registered with Italian sides in the squads of the 23 teams who joined the nation in the finals.

Almost 40 per cent of the goals scored in the competition to date have been netted by men who make their living in Italy.

Since reopening the frontier to foreign players 10 years ago after more than a decade in which they were barred, Italian clubs have plundered South America and the rest of Europe to gather the richest possible harvest of soccer skills.

They have succeeded so totally that no one could contest their claim to have created the best League in the world.

Some of the top names will literally be playing at home in the World Cup.

Diego Maradona, widely regarded as the world's best player, has the support of his own Naples crowd when he appears for Argentina.

Milan fans cheer West Germans when the inter-trio of Matthaeus, Juergen Klinsmann and Andreas Brehme, three of the best players on view, take the field at the San Siro Stadium where they already know every blade of grass.

But half of the city's football fans, the AC Milan supporters, must watch their adopted Dutch heroes Rudi Gullit, Marco van Basten and Frank Rijkaard on television for the time being. The Netherlands play in Sicily and Sardinia.

World champions Argentina have seven Italy-based players while West Germany can boast five and Brazil four.

No fewer than eight of West Germany's nine goals have been scored by Italian taxpayers, Brazil have bagged three, two from Careca, Maradona's teammate at Napoli, and the other from Torino's Muller.

The foreign invasion of the Italian League's rich pastures is unlikely to abate after the finals.

West Germans Thomas Haessler and Karl-Heinz Riedle have already signed for Juventus and Lazio next season and Stefan Reuter will join Haessler in Turin the following year.

Spanish mid-fielder Rafael Marín Vázquez has agreed to join Torino from Real Madrid.

Italian sports papers, alert to every rumour on the transfer front, talk of several deals in the pipeline.

Brazilian stars Bebeto, Jorginho and Mazzinho are among those on the wanted list of Italian clubs as are Soviet striker Oleg Protasov and Belgian forward Marc Degryse.

New favourites

LONDON, June 17. (Reuter): British bookmakers Ladbrokes made West Germany the new favourites to win the soccer World Cup yesterday.

Ladbrokes made West Germany, who have won both their previous tournaments, the new favourites at 9-4 with Italy dropping back to second favourites at 5-2.

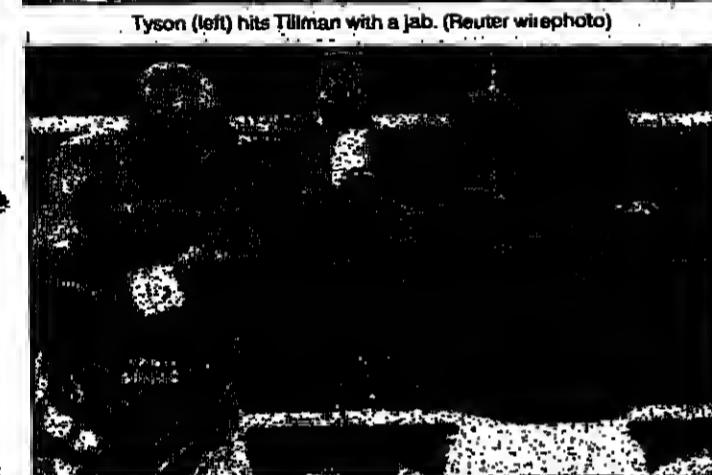
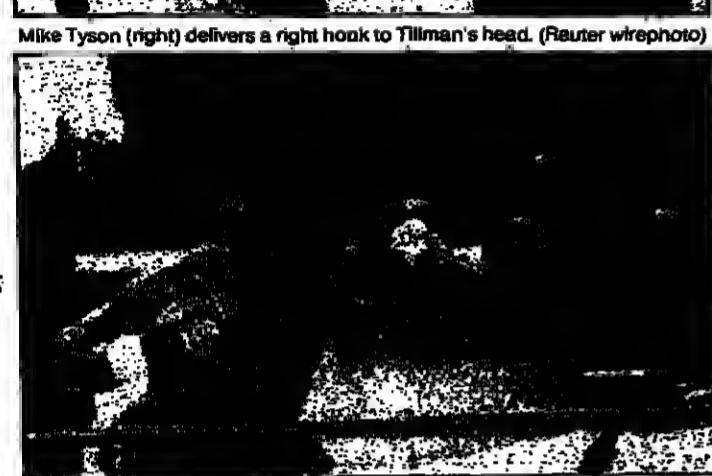
It was the first time since the last year that Italy have not been favoured.



McCall (2nd right) got the first goal for Scotland. (Reuter wirephoto)

Foreman stops Rodrigues

Tyson KO's Tillman



Foreman (left) lands a left jab to Rodrigues' face. (Reuter wirephoto)

LAS VEGAS, June 17, (Reuter): Mike Tyson began his comeback bid to regain the world heavyweight title with a vengeance, knocking out fellow American Henry Tillman in the first round last night.

Tillman, unranked and in just his fifth fight in the last two years, was clearly trying only to survive the onslaught from the man he had defeated twice in the 1984 Olympic boxing trials.

In the opening seconds of the scheduled 10-round bout, Tyson appeared to throw more jabs than he had in the entire fight in Tokyo last February when James "Buster" Douglas knocked him out in the 10th round to win the undisputed heavyweight crown.

Tillman essentially landed only one real punch in the fight — an overhand right flush on Tyson's face. But the former champion did not flinch and continued his pursuit.

Tyson laid Tillman out with one crushing punch — a looping right hand to the temple.

Tillman went down like a rock and barely moved, his mouthpiece hanging out as referee Richard Steele counted him out at two minutes 47 seconds of the round.

"Without a doubt, I'm the best fighter in the universe and I'm coming back to regain the title," Tyson said moments after the fight.

"I didn't have much doubt on the outcome of the fight," Tyson said.

Asked what the easy victory proved, Tyson said: "It helps my confidence. People told me this was going to be a pushover. That's when I worry. They said Buster Douglas was a pushover."

"I'm in shape and can fight anyone in the world," he said.

Tyson, 23, is expected to fight again in September — probably against Alex Stewart of Jamaica.

"You have to stay active," he said, responding to a question about his readiness to fight in September. "I want to fight as often as I can. I prefer to be more active than I have been."

On his feelings about fighting the winner of the scheduled September 21 Douglas-Evander Holyfield title fight, Tyson said: "Regardless (of who wins) it will be a high fight and after that I'll be there."

Douglas and Holyfield were both at ringside watching Tyson fight last night.

Tyson, whose record is now 38-1, landed 14 of 32 punches in his short evening's work for which he was paid about \$4 million.

The 29-year-old Tillman paid about \$375,000 to be a confidence-builder for Tyson, is now 40-5.

George Foreman's impossible dream to regain the world heavyweight title remained alive when he knocked out Adrián Rodrigues in the second round of their scheduled 10-round bout last night.

Foreman, 41, set up Rodrigues with two left jabs to the head and put the Brazilian down with a straight right and two left jabs to the head and put the Brazilian down again.

Rodrigues, whose record fell to 36-4, had been ranked 11th by the World Boxing Council and the World Boxing Association.

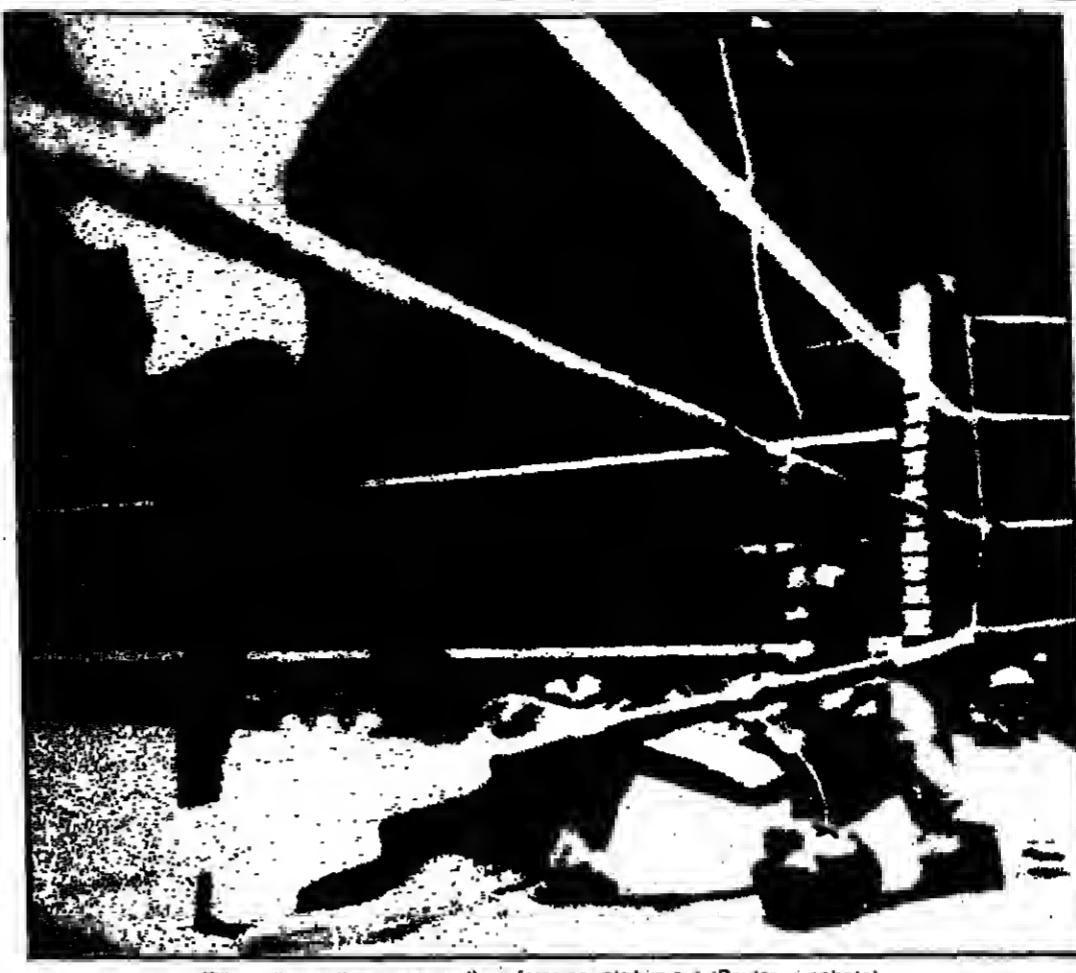
"I expected a lot more than I got," a very relaxed Foreman said afterward. "I didn't expect a quick knockout because I thought he'd be moving more than he did. I thought I'd catch up with him about the seventh round."

"When you get into the ring with an Angelo Dundee fighter, you're halfway scared because you know he's got something up his sleeve," Foreman said, referring to the legendary trainer who was in Rodrigues' corner.

Foreman is now 67-2 overall and 22-0 in the 39 months since he began his unlikely comeback bid to win the world heavyweight title he held in 1974.

Asked how he chooses his opponents these days, Foreman — always looking for a laugh at his own expense — said: "If they can whup my mother they don't go."

"As you get older, you get smarter," said Foreman who bills himself as the standard bearer for the over-40 crowd.



Tillman lies on the canvas as the referee counts him out. (Reuter wirephoto)

Botham hits 113 to rescue Worcester

LONDON, June 17, (Reuter): Former England cricket captain Ian Botham hit his first championship century for three years yesterday to rescue Worcestershire against Surrey.

Botham, overlooked by England for the current Test series against New Zealand, began cautiously after going in to bat with the county champions at 22 runs for 3 wickets.

He hit two sixes and 10 fours in a stay of 221 minutes, the second 50 runs coming in just 58 minutes, before being caught by England batsman Alec Stewart off Keith Medleycott for 113.

Bad light ended play with Worcestershire 263 for seven.

Botham's last championship century was in July 1987 when he hit an unbeaten 126 against his former county Somerset.

John Stephenson smashed a career best 202 not out off Worcester to take Essex to 431 for three at close of play. It was the fourth double century by an Essex batsman this season.

Bill Athey cracked a superb 131 and England wicket-keeper Jack Russell made 98 in a seventh wicket stand as Gloucestershire recovered from 117 for five to make 374. Sussex survived some hostile bowling to reply with 32 runs for 3 wickets in making 33.

He and Richard Williams, who made 73, added 167 for the fifth wicket as Northants totalled 279 for nine declared. New Zealand had made 28 without loss in reply at the close.

After making two separate centuries against Glamorgan last weekend it was a timely reminder to the England selectors who have ignored Capel for the first two Tests against New Zealand.

Botham never intended playing in this match and instead celebrated his appearance in the Queen's birthday honours list by staying with friends in Nottingham.

Even without the world's leading Test wicket-taker, New Zealand made excellent early progress after losing the toss.

However Roh Bailey was decidedly unlucky when he was out without scoring. Having solidly driven a ball from Jonathan Millnow, he was struck as it ricocheted from Mark Priest's knee at silly mid-off and into the bowler's hands for a bizarre return catch.

Millnow's fortune soon changed, however. The young paceman pulled up sharply midway through his next over with a shin injury, which is likely to rule him out of the rest of this game.

But even that incident rebounded.

Capel hits century off New Zealand

NORTHAMPTON, England, June 17, (Reuter): Discarded England all-rounder David Capel cracked his third century in a week to rescue Northants against Surrey.

In the absence of the newly-knighted Sir Richard Hadlee, Capel produced a stream of glorious shots against the other New Zealand bowlers after Northants had lost three wickets in making 33.

He and Richard Williams,

who made 73, added 167 for the fifth wicket as Northants totalled 279 for nine declared. New Zealand had made 28 without loss in reply at the close.

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ded on Northants. Spinner John Bracewell was called up to complete the over — and his first delivery trapped Alan Fordham leg before wicket.

Scoreboard

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE first innings

A. Fordham lbw b Bracewell 20

N. Felton c Rutherford b Morrison 3

R. Bailey c and b Millnow 0

A. Lamb lbw b Morrison 21

D. Capel c and b Priest 123

R. Williams c Wright b Priest 73

R. Noon lbw b Morrison 2

N. Cook c Wright b Priest 10

W. Davies not out 5

C. Ambrose lbw b Bracewell 0

Extras (B-13 lb-4 w-1 nb-4) 22

Total (for nine wickets declared) 279

Fall of wickets: 1-22 2-23 3-33 4-73

S-240 5-253 7-261 8-274 9-279

Did not bat Mark Robinson

Bowling: Morrison 214-6-83-2, Mill-

now 3-4-16-1, Bracewell 30-9-78-2,

Thomson 13-0-85-0, Priest 30-17-35-

33. Total 279

NEAR NEW ZEALAND first innings

T. Franklin not out 15

J. Wright not out 5

Extras (b-1, nb-1 w-1) 3

Total (for no wickets) 28

To bat Andrew Jones, Mark Great-

batch, Ken Rutherford, Adam Parra, John Bracewell, Shane

Thomson, Jonathan Millnow, Danny

Monson, Mark Priest

Road relay

TOKYO, June 17, (UPI): The Asian

Amateur Athletic Federation will

propose an Ekiden road relay be-

tween the capital cities of South and

North Korea across the 39th Parallel

dividing the Korean peninsula, Kyodo news service reported yesterday.

JOC director

TOKYO, June 17, (UPI): Billionaire

Yoshiaki Tsutsumi, who has retired

as head of the Japan Olympic Com-

mittee, will continue to serve as a

director of the committee until his

term ends next March, committee

officials have said.

RESULTS of the Hubara Bridge Club

game played on Saturday:

NJS

1. Dr Rida & Dr Naim

2. Nabil Akeil & Dr Oskay

3. Jamila Akeil & Camille Akeil

E/W

1. Sape & Gajar

2. Desmond Pereira & A. D'Souza

3. Roulou brothers

Results of "Kuwait Bridge Commit-

tee" marathon game held on Friday:

(sponsored by Tanagra)

1. Shah & Ravi

2. Sherin & Heneid

3. Farah & Tab

4. Latafat & Reddy

5. D'Souza & Pereira

1st mixed pair Mrs Bianca & Tawfi

kh

Canada upset Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, June 17, (Reuter): Canada beat the Argentine

Pumas 19-15 (halftime 13-8) in a rugby union qualifying match

yesterday, setting positions for the American zone teams in the 1991

World Cup.

Although Argentina had a stronger pack, the Canadian forwards

took advantage of the Argentine's disorganisation among the backs, and</p

World Cup Notebook

Prostitutes upset
CAGLIARI, June 17, (Reuters): Massive security to guard against World Cup violence in Cagliari has upset not just the English fans — prostitutes say it is ruining their business. They claim the 4,000 police patrolling Cagliari to prevent violence by English hooligans have made it impossible for them to pick up customers in the streets.

Thorn doubtful

GENOA, June 17, (Reuters): Sweden's midfield general Jonas Thorn said today he was doubtful for Wednesday's crucial World Cup match against Costa Rica because of a back injury and could be out of action for some time. "The way I feel now I couldn't possibly play against Costa Rica on Wednesday," the 23-year-old Beaufort player said.

False drains

NAPLES, June 17, (Reuters): Naples city council has launched an investigation into claims that false drains leading nowhere were installed around the soccer stadium to beat the rush to finish in time for the World Cup.

Painted devils

VERONA, June 17, (Reuters): Painted devils appeared in the sunlit streets of Verona this afternoon, but without evil intent. Some 10,000 Belgian soccer fans — many dressed as devils with their faces painted black, yellow and red — swarmed into the ancient city for today's World Cup match between Uruguay and Belgium, nicknamed "The Red Devils."

Argentine 'keeper

NAPLES, June 17, (Reuters): Diego Maradona and his team-mates visited injured Argentine goalkeeper Nery Pumpido in a Naples clinic today. Pumpido, who broke his right leg in the World Cup win over the Soviet Union on Wednesday, is expected to leave the clinic on Monday, doctors said.

Popescu injured

BARI, June 17, (Reuters): Romanian defender Gheorghe Popescu injured a leg in training but is expected to play against Argentina in a decisive World Cup Group B match tomorrow.

Cup coach

BOLOGNA, June 17, (Reuters): Colombian World Cup coach Francisco Maturana scored a hat-trick in a friendly against local youngsters yesterday.

Beckenbauer sure

ERBA, Italy, June 17, (AP): West Germany's opponent in the second round of the World Cup remains uncertain, but manager Franz Beckenbauer has no doubts about the quality of his team. "We can beat any opponent if we play the way we have played so far," Beckenbauer said today. "I am not overly worried about which team we have to face."

Roth critical

RUEKA, Yugoslavia, June 17, (Reuters): West Germany Reinhold Roth was in a critical condition today after crashing in the Yugoslav 250cc motorcycling Grand Prix.

Roth fractured his skull in a crash involving three riders four laps from the finish on a track made slippery by rain.

The accident came at a fast left-hand bend opposite the pits as the leading pack of seven were lapping Australian Darren Milner.

Roth and Milner collided and Spanish world champion Alex Criville, close behind, was on top them as all three crashed to the track.

They were taken to hospital where doctors said Roth was in a critical condition. The conditions of Milner and Criville were not immediately known.

Organisers stopped the race and declared the results official at the end of the 23rd lap.

Brazil face open revolt after disappointing display

TURIN, June 17, (Reuters): Brazilian manager Sébastien Lazaroni faced open revolt from some of his star players today after his side's disappointing 1-0 World Cup win over Costa Rica.

"I was only given five minutes to play, what can I possibly show such a short time?" complained late substitute Bebeto, a favourite with fans for his old-style Brazilian attacking play.

"I must be given a decent chance to

show that I can help the team score some goals," he said.

But the fragile Vasco striker has struggled to find a permanent spot in the two-man attack favoured by Lazaroni, who again defended his cautious 3-5-2 line-up.

"I am not going to change my tactical scheme just because of the Costa Rica match which we should have won by far more goals," he said.

"Putting on another forward would not have made any difference against such a defensive team, and in fact I thought we played much better this time than against Sweden because of the number of chances we created," Lazaroni said.

Romario, who was not even included as a substitute, disagreed.

"How can we hope to win the cup by playing this kind of football?" the PSV

Eindhoven striker said. "We need more players up front to help convert the chances we make into goals," said Romario, who insisted he had completely recovered from a recent broken leg.

Brazil outplayed the Costa Ricans yesterday but were thwarted almost throughout by a mixture of poor finishing and brilliant goalkeeping by Luis Gómez Conejo.

Egypt hold Ireland to draw

Group F stalemate extended



Hossam Hassan of Egypt (left) and Ireland's Kevin Moran battle for the ball (Reuters wirephoto)

PALERMO, June 17, (Reuters): Egypt soaked up an Irish onslaught today to claim a 0-0 draw and leave the four teams in Group F stalemates on two points with identical goal difference.

Ireland set out to deny the Egyptians the space they enjoyed in Tuesday's 1-1 draw with the Dutch European champions and dominated the game for the start with their hard-running style.

But the quality of their crossing was seldom good enough to trouble an Egyptian defence in which Hani Ramzi and goalkeeper Ahmed Shabir excelled.

The closest Ireland came to scoring was when Kevin Sheedy sent midfielder Ray Houghton clear on 69 minutes but Shabir sprang off his line to make a superb smothering save.

Six minutes later left back Steve Staunton rifled a tremendous low shot from 25 metres just the wrong side of Shabir's far post as the Irish continued to pour forward.

The result leaves everything resting on the last two matches when Ireland play the Dutch here and Egypt travel to meet England in Sardinia.

Little was seen of the Egyptians, appearing in their first finals since 1934, as an attacking force with the pacey Hossam Hassan.

Standings in World Cup first-round play after today's matches (tabulated under matches played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
Czechoslovakia 2 2 0 0 6 1 4	West Germany 2 2 0 0 9 2 4	Belgium 1 1 0 0 2 0 2	Uruguay 1 1 0 0 0 0 1
Italy 2 2 0 0 2 0 4	Colombia 2 1 0 1 2 1 2	Uruguay 1 1 0 0 0 0 1	Yugoslavia 1 2 1 2 4 2
Austria 2 0 0 2 1 6 0	Yugoslavia 2 1 0 1 2 1 2	Spain 1 0 1 0 0 0 1	UAE 2 0 0 2 1 7 0
United States 2 0 0 2 1 6 0	UAE 2 0 0 2 1 7 0	Group E	
		Belgium 1 1 0 0 2 0 2	
		Uruguay 1 1 0 0 0 0 1	
		Spain 1 0 1 0 0 0 1	
		Group F	
		South Korea 1 0 0 1 0 0 2 0	
		England 2 0 2 0 1 1 2	
		Ireland 2 0 2 0 1 1 2	
		Netherlands 2 0 2 0 1 1 2	
		Egypt 2 0 2 0 1 1 2	

NOTE: Results of Belgium vs Uruguay and S. Korea vs Spain not included. Today's games: (1) Argentina vs Romania; (2) Cameroon vs Soviet Union. Both matches at 10.00 pm (Kuwait time). The first match will be shown live.

given little support.

Ireland dominated from the start as they sought the win which would guarantee them a place in the last 16 in their first ever World Cup final appearance.

Liverpool defender Staunton had a powerful shot turned away for a corner by Ramzi on 24 minutes and seven minutes later Irish penalty claims were turned down after Sheedy fell over Ramzi's leg.

Shabir, a target for several European clubs, showed his class with confident saves from a Chris Morris cross and a Tony Casarino volley.

Violence sickening: Britain

CAGLIARI, June 17, (Reuters): Britain today described clashes between riot police and stone-throwing English World Cup soccer supporters in Cagliari as sickening and said they were organised by a mindless minority of thugs.

Police used tear gas, batons and rifle butts yesterday to disperse 2,000 chanting England fans marching to Cagliari stadium after hooligans at the head of the column charged a police cordon, pelting riot squads with rocks and bricks.

Seven fans, one with a broken leg, and five police were hurt. Police arrested seven English supporters and cornered 500 to 600 fans in a backstreet petrol station before allowing those with tickets to continue to the match against the Netherlands.

"The orchestrated incident before the match was a sickening reflection that a mindless minority of thugs can bring English football into international disrepute," British Sports Minister Colin Moynihan said.

"I am grateful to the police for their swift, tough and decisive action," he said.

Deputy police chief Antonio Piza, who ran yesterday's operation, told Reuters: "These are hooligans. They either had to accept being kept under control or face a clash with us. These people have learned that they can't engage in gratuitous hooliganism."

In Genoa, European Football Union (UEFA) president Lennart Johansson said that the incidents had further reduced the chances of English soccer clubs being readmitted to European competition.

Moynihan, who flew to Cagliari to watch the goalless draw, said police had prevented further incidents and avoided serious clashes between English and Dutch supporters.

Police mounted the World Cup's biggest security operation for yesterday's match because of the violent reputation of both English and Dutch fans.



The winners with KIH officials.

KIH tourney ends

WHEN the last ball was struck, each competitor knew they had accomplished a great deal at the KIH Junior Open. Not only did these players battle 50°C heat all week, but they had fun doing it! The following are the final results from the Kuwait International Hotel 1990 Junior Open sponsored by Pepsi-Cola:

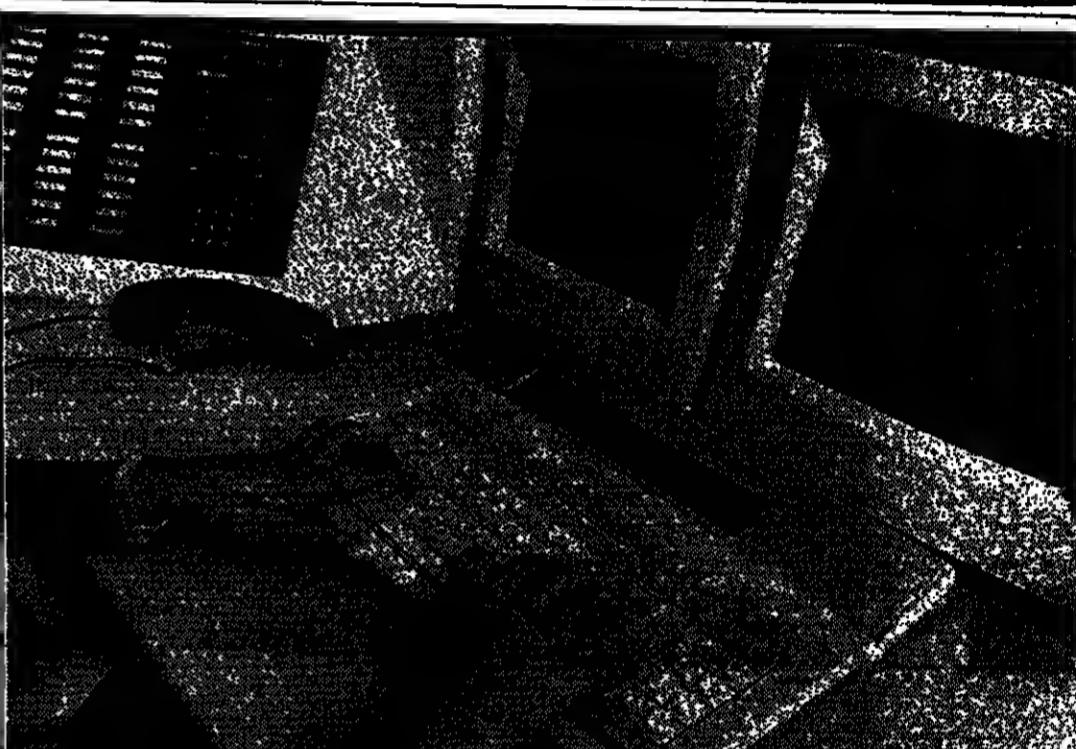
Boys U-16 doubles final: Abdulla Al Aziz & Khalid Al Ashwak defeated Umar Lukic & Andrea Negri 7/5 6/4.

Boys U-16 doubles 3rd place: Bader Al Bader & Khalid Al Qatame defeated Vijaya Bala & Samer Abu Wishah 6/2 6/4.

Boys U-16 doubles consolation final: Peter Punj & Simon Evelyn upended Fahdi Al Sabri & Abdulla Al Masri 6/4 6/0.

Girls U-16 singles final: Heba Al Masry cruised by Zain Al Sabah 6/0 6/2; Amira Labib earned third place by walkover.

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Jaguar take top two places in Le Mans

LE MANS, France, June 17, (Reuters): Dane John Nielsen, driving a Jaguar, gave the British manufacturer their seventh win in the Le Mans 24-hour sports car event today.

A last-minute engine failure for Spaniard Jesus Pareja, in a Porsche, handed Dutchman Jan Lammers second place and an unexpected one-two for Jaguar.

Track rescue personnel work around the Toyota of Japan's Toshi Suzuki moments after he crashed after the start of the Le Mans race. Suzuki was not injured. (Reuters wirephoto)

Fifteen minutes before the 24-hour mark, after a dramatic eight-hour chase, Pareja was trailing Nielsen's Jaguar by one lap. Nielsen had taken the lead overnight, 12 hours into the race.

But suddenly cheers erupted from British supporters in the crowd as smoke started pouring from the Porsche, which even-

ually came to a standstill at the end of the mulsanne straight.

A disappointed Pareja, who was partnered by Argentine Oscar Larrauri and Swiss Walter Brun, walked dejectedly back to the pits while the two leading Jaguars motored on to victory.

Another Porsche, driven by the British trio of Tiff Needell, David Sears and Anthony Reid, took third place, seven laps behind the winners.



A Porsche 962C, driven by the team of Pareja/Larrauri Brun lead the La Mans just one hour after the start of the race yesterday. This team went on to win the race. (Reuters wirephoto)